FACTSHEET FIVE

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STAPH
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FACTSHEET FIVE will be published five times in 1989, appearing in the mails on or about the tenth of February, May, August, October, and December. Beginning in 1990, **FACTSHEET FIVE** will be published six times each year. Subscriptions are available at $2.00 (cash, check, Money Order or mint US postage stamps) per issue, up to 6 issues in advance. A six-issue subscription is $11.00. These copies are sent Bulk Mail within the US, First Class to Canada and Mexico, and Surface Mail overseas.

First class subscriptions within the US are available at $2.75 per issue, while Overseas Airmail may be had for $5.00 per issue. Six issues at First Class postage is $15.00. Library subscriptions (available to anyone who wants the index) are $3.50 per issue, or $18.00 for six issues, and include first-class mailing in envelopes and the quarterly index. A Lifetime Subscription, with First Class mailing anywhere on the continent, is $75. An Overseas Lifetime Subscription is $190.

1989 Deadlines for **FACTSHEET FIVE** are the 20th of January, April, July, September, and November.

A glossary of unusual terms used in FF is available for a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Back issues of **FACTSHEET FIVE** are available as follows:

#1,2,3,4,17.1	$1 each
#18,20-29	$2 each
#5-17	$3 each
#19	$10 each
Complete set	$70

Factsheet Five

Welcome to another issue of the zine of crosscurrents and cross-pollination. Available by mail or in person from Mike Gunderloy, 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, NY 12144-4502; phone (518)-479-3707 (24-hour answering machine, so call anytime); 300/1200 baud phone (518)-479-3879 (call anytime you have a computer handy). This is Pretzel Press publication #809 and is intended for direct Bulk Mailing to subscribers and good people across the country, around the world, and right into your face. Press run: 6000 copies. 30th issue, May 1989.

* * *

This is where I explain the mailing code, on the far right of the first line of the address label.

A number indicates the last issue that you'll be getting. So if the number is "30", you need to Do Something if you want to keep getting FF. If the number is "30" and you don't even know why you got this, you probably have a Secret Admirer or something. Wanna subscribe?

There are a couple of things that can flank this number. If it's flanked with asterisks (*30*), you've paid for, and should be getting, first class postage. If it's flanked with carets (^30^), then this is a trade copy for which you paid first-class postage, after which you will revert to bulk-mail trade copies. If it's flanked with plus signs (+30+) you're getting a library subscription, including first-class postage, mailing envelopes, and the index.

"+" indicates that you've got nothing to worry about, because you're on the staph, you won a contest, or you just got lucky.

"A" means that you're getting this because of your artwork; either you sent me some or I want you to send me some, or both.

"B" means I'm trading for a book you sent.

"D" means that you're a distributor and so you get one copy for yourself as a freebie. I'm looking for new distributors, people who think they can sell at least ten copies and want to split the proceeds. Distributors get a 40% wholesale discount on all copies, and may sell on consignment. The number after the colon is how many copies I think I'm sending you.

"L" means that you are a Lifetime Subscriber, and therefore exempt from nonsense. Lifetime subscribers get their issues sent First Class. They also get free copies of **FACTSHEET FIVE** publications as they're issued — there will be another book coming later this year. Right now we're up to 52 lifetime subscribers, but there's always room for one more.

By the way, "lifetime" means either the magazine's lifetime or yours, whichever comes first. If you wish to buy a subscription which you may will to your heirs, contact me for a special rate.

"M" means you sent me music to review, or that you promised to send me music in the future. I usually allow 2 issues for a single, 3 for a tape, or 4 for an LP, but I screw up a bit, so let me know if you're owed more. (Or less).

"P" means you're a prisoner. **FACTSHEET FIVE** is always free to prisoners, but you need to keep in touch to keep getting it, otherwise I'll assume the copies aren't getting through to you. Wardens, you gotta pay like anyone else. Prisoners in mental institutions are extended the same privileges as those in allegedly-saner criminal institutions.

"R" means that this is a review/checking copy. It is for you to have to check the review I've done of your zine, or to be able to do a review of mine. I would like to see further copies of yours for future review — though of course you're not obligated to publish a review. I will continue to send you R copies as long as I stay on your mailing list, whether you write reviews or not. If you publish infrequently, I expect at least a note every six months to keep you on the mailing list.

"R?" means that I'd like you to consider sending copies of your zine in return for review/checking copies of mine.

Any of the above followed by a number (like "M/30") indicate the issue you'll have to renegotiate to keep getting FF. *You must get in touch with me at least once every two issues, regardless of the mailing code, to continue getting FF!* This applies to prisoners, artists, traders, everyone!

> Send me your zine, drop me a line, do **SOMETHING** so I know you're still out there. Actually, this doesn't apply to subscribers, only to people getting the zine for free. Clear?

Please take a moment to check your mailing label. If there are any mistakes, you have to let me know. They won't fix themselves. And you won't get any further warning if your subscription has run out.

And remember, FF is sent *bulk mail*. Not only does this make it slow (though, I hope, not *too* slow), but it means undeliverable copies go to that Big Post Office In The Sky. So **PLEASE** get your COAs to me promptly to avoid missing issues. I am not responsible for copies lost due to unannounced moves.

As far as delivery time goes, it seems to take anywhere between three days and three weeks for FF to get from me to you. If you don't get your copy by the end of the month of publication, call me and I'll send a replacement. Also, here's a tip from **SIMPLE COOKING #23**: "So far as slow or careless delivery is concerned, request US Postal Service Form 4314, the Consumer Service Card, from your local post office. Record your complaint appropriately (delay, nonreceipt, damaged, etc.) and send it to the postmaster of your district, not to your local post office. (It has the most impact when passed down from on high.) My local postmaster says these are taken seriously."

* * *

Subscription rates are on the Staph page, but here they are again: $2.00 (cash [US or otherwise], check, money order, US stamps, or 5 IRCs) per issue for a regular sub. Those in the US can subscribe for $2.75 an issue and get FF delivered First Class instead of Bulk Mail. Library subscriptions are $3.50 per issue and include the index and first class mailing in protective envelopes. Those overseas can get Airmail delivery for $5 or 13 IRCs per issue. I'll also take the equivalent in any local paper currency. Any of these rates are good for up to 6 issues in advance, protecting you from price rises for a full year. Six-issue subscription rates are $11 for bulk mail, $15 for First Class, and $18 for Library subscriptions. Send money for more than 6 issues and I'll take it as a welcome donation. (Be sure to specify if you're sending money for a 1st class or library subscription!)

Publishers and others who get their issues without paying may have them delivered first class for $1 per issue. This rate is only valid if you would have received that issue anyhow.

If anyone wants to buy a lifetime subscription (lifetime of the magazine, that is), I'll sell you one for $75. Or make me a reasonable offer of trade or barter. An overseas lifetime subscription is $190.

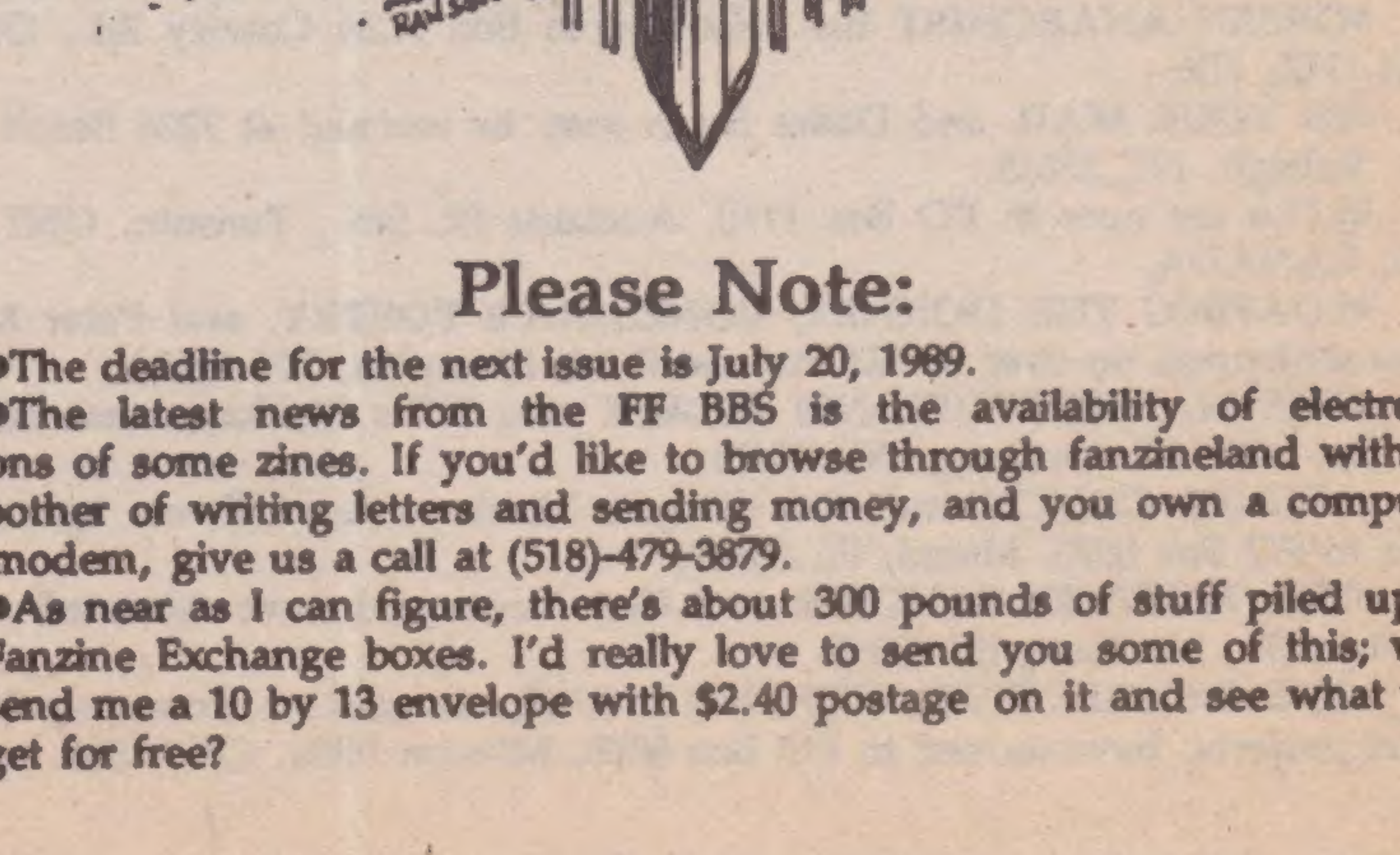
Thanks to Jerry B., Tom Peitzsch, Brad Russell, Marc Tucker, Hal Weaver, Joe Workman, and Donna Young for their generous donations towards publishing this issue.

If you want FF sent to a friend, just send me their address and $2, or $2.75 if you're in a hurry. FF makes a great Christmas, birthday, or Bar Mitzvah present. I'll mark it as a gift from you unless you specify otherwise.

In lieu of sending stamps, money, fanzines, artwork, books, or music, you can get FF by sending me something to review that I haven't seen before, or by bartering dangerous drugs, canned goods, negotiable securities, wind-up sushi, ads for Japanese porno videos, or other interesting or amusing flotsam from our society.

Thanks to Ace Backwords, Bag of Water, Jon Bekken, Amy Bergenfeld, Doug Biggert, Bob Black, Mykel Board, Mariateresa V. Canosa, Remy Chevalier, Paul Di Filippo, Chris Dodge, Jim Downard, Holly Duval, Phelps Gates, Larry Geller, Steve Gentry, Tom Gill, Tim Goebel, Rodney Griffith, Maurice Harter, Carmen Hillebrew, Wayne Honath, James J. Hughes, David Jarratt, Kevin Kelly, Little Fyodor, Matt Love, Tim Madigan, Fred Mills, Dave Ousley, Hal Palmer, Eric Predoehl, Joe Schwind, Raoul St. Robespierre, L.A. Rollins, Mark Rose, Jason Sadofsky, Dave Szurek, Jim Testa, Trevor, Glen Venezio, Don Webb, Peter Werbe, Rosemary West, and Martin Morse Wooster for sending new and unknown zines for me to review in this issue.

I'd also like to specially thank the **DROOD REVIEW** for sending along some back issues to fill out their file in the archives. I'm always happy to take in back issues looking for a home, and will make them available to future researchers.



Please Note:

- The deadline for the next issue is July 20, 1989.
- The latest news from the FF BBS is the availability of electronic editions of some zines. If you'd like to browse through fanzineland without the bother of writing letters and sending money, and you own a computer and modem, give us a call at (518)-479-3879.
- As near as I can figure, there's about 300 pounds of stuff piled up in the Fanzine Exchange boxes. I'd really love to send you some of this; why not send me a 10 by 13 envelope with $2.40 postage on it and see what you can get for free?

FACTSHEET FIVE
NEWS

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

•**AMERICAN WINDOW CLEANER** may now be seen at 27 Oak Creek Rd., El Sobrante, CA 94803.

•**ANCIENT ARTS** and Jo & James Dixon have relocated again, this time to PO Box 3127, Morgantown, WV 26505.

•**BLUE LIGHTS** is shining once again care of Christine Menefee, 600 Water St. SW #8-14, Washington, DC 20024.

•**BOMB** is now defunct but still receiving mail c/o Michael Dean, PO Box 1210, San Francisco, CA 94101.

•**BOX OF WATER** and Steven Perkins swam over to 1031 York St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

•**Caroline Records** has gone round to 114 W. 26th St., New York, NY 10001.

•**CENSORSHIP NEWS** and the National Coalition Against Censorship are at 2 W. 64th St., New York, NY 10023.

•**Ken Cheetham** (whose "Beyond Cabbage" cassette we reviewed in #29) has rolled over to PO Box 11232, Berkeley, CA 94701.

•**CHEMICAL CASTRATION** and Ben Gilbert have altered their address to 40 Chase St., Newton, MA 02159.

•**The Church of the Drunken Sailor** has staggered off to 2821 Stonebrook, Irving, TX 75062.

•**CHOKEHOLD** and Lance LeVine may be grabbed at 3113 S. Parnell, Chicago, IL 60616.

•**CLOUD 247** is floating around PO Box 1132, Eastsound, Orcas Island, WA 98245.

•**Norman Crowhurst** has moved his operations to 1512 SW Fairview, Dallas, OR 97338.

•**DABLA** and Gizmo Stress are back at PO Box 1153, Russellville, AL 35653.

•**DARKNERVE** and Jim Lough are in the shadows of 276 28th St., San Francisco, CA 94131.

•**DECENTRALIZE!** and Carol Moore have recentralized at PO Box 1608, Washington, DC 20013-1608.

•**William Dockery** has docked at 2108 15th Ave., Phenix City, AL 36867.

•**DOVELINK** and Gideon Strauss have flown to c/o Ernst Z., 7 Melbourne Rd., Woodstock 7925, SOUTH AFRICA.

•**DRAGONFLY** has flown to 3558 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110.

•**EDGE DETECTOR** and Glenn Grant may be detected in PO Box 1408, Stn. A, London, ONT N6A 5M2, CANADA.

•**EELGASTOE** and Shayne Hansen may be caught at 270 Azure Way #11, Miami Springs, FL 33166.

•**EELSKIN COMICS** has relocated to 959 Harrison St. #88, Seattle, WA 98109.

•**THE FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONEER'S GUIDE** is now partying at 6827 Cerro Bajo, San Antonio, TX 78239.

•**Feral Faun** has relocated to PO Box 11331, Eugene, OR 97440.

•**FILE 13** and Mark Lo are now at PO Box 548, Lincroft, NJ 07738.

•**FIVE CENTS' WORTH** and Greg Nicoll may be bought from PO Box 48254, Atlanta, GA 30362.

•**FLACCID** and Lori Carlson are at 717 SW 4th #9, Corvallis, OR 97333-4424.

•**Flatland** has moved to 2550 Shattuck Ave. #56, Berkeley, CA 94704.

•**GREEN ANARCHIST** has relocated to Box H.34 Cowley Rd., Oxford, OX4 1HZ, UK.

•**IN YOUR MAIL** and Dallas Swan may be reached at 7206 Brook Bank Ln., Raleigh, NC 27615.

•**J.D.s** are now in PO Box 1110, Adelaide St. Stn., Toronto, ONT M5C 2K5, CANADA.

•**LOAFING THE DONKEY, BONESAUCE POETRY,** and Peter Mantis have schlepped on over to 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104.

•**THE MANDOCRUCIAN'S DIGEST** and Niles Hokkanen are now in PO Box 1935, Martinsburg, WV 25401.

•**MEDICI COUCH** and the Winged Monkeys have flown again, this time to PO Box 0023, Miami, FL 33137.

•**THE MYSTERY FANCIER** and Guy Townsend have relocated to 311 E. Main St., Madison, IN 47250.

•**THE NEWSLETTER WITH NO NAME,** as well as Rosemary West's other projects, have moved to PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346.

•**Not Available Comics** and Matt Feazell are available from 106 N. Summit #1, Ypsilanti, MI 48197.

•**NOT BORED** and Bill Brown may be entertained at PO Box 8367, Ann Arbor, MI 48107.

•**NOTES FROM THE NEST** and Kurt Brecht are resettling at 4401 San Leandro St., Oakland, CA 94601.

•**OIKOS** is now at PO Box 636, Stellenbosch, ZA-7600, SOUTH AFRICA.

•**POOT** and Bob Sheridan have moved to 3146 W. 82nd St. Up, Cleveland, OH 44111.

•**POSTCARD SLUT** and Hal Palmer are at 5221 Sierra Oaks Dr. #102, Diamond Springs, CA 95619.

•**PUNX** and **STUDIO X** have moved to PO Box 571660, Houston, TX 77257. Edi Tour suspects that mail was lost in transit, and asks that people write again if they sent money and never received anything.

•**SALON** may be entered at 305 W. Magnolia #386, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

•**THE SEDITIONIST** is plotting at PO Box 210095, San Francisco, CA 94121-0095.

•**SHATTERED WIG PRODUCTIONS** and Rupert Wondolewski have broken out to 523 E. 38th St., Baltimore, MD 21218.

•**SKEET'S FAN FORUM** and Steve Keeter are now at 513 N. Summerlin Ave., Orlando, FL 32803.

•**STRESSED OUT** and Pauline Poisonous have moved to 151 Arlington Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32014.

•**SUB ROSA** and Noemie Maxwell are now at 1741 Belmont Ave. #108, Seattle, WA 98122.

•**SWORD & STARSHIP** and Otto Kitsinger have flown to PO Box 22037, Nashville, TN 37202.

•**THANG** and Mike Robbins are at 1713 Commonwealth Ave. #1, Boston, MA 02135.

•**THRASHOLD** is now at PO Box 2089, 5600 CB, Eindhoven, HOLLAND.

•**TOO FUN TOO HUGE** and Patrick Amory have gone too far to 304 Beacon St. #3, Somerville, MA 02143.

•**TOUCHPOINT** may be contacted at PO Box 355, McVeytown, PA 17051.

•**THE UGLY AMERICAN** and Greg Chapman may be seen at Box 2061, Stockton State College, Pomona, NJ 08240.

•**ZERO** and all of Mike Manning's other projects have relocated to PO Box 832, Brookline Village, MA 02147-0832.

Remember, since it costs me 30¢ just to get your COA if the Post Office tells me, and remailing your FF would cost me the price of another copy plus first class postage (they don't return whole issues, just covers), I'm not inclined to send you a replacement when this happens. If you want to keep your collection complete, send me your Change of Address as soon as you know it!

LOST ADDRESSES

Anybody got a current address for any of these?

•Pat Andrade
•Extremely High Quality Records
•IN THE PAINT
•JAB
•THE LUNGSNAKE
•Linda Meadows
•NO MAGAZINE and Brad Johnson
•PUSH-MACHINERY
•Sacrifice Choir
•SCUTTLEBUTT
•Smoke Seven Productions
•The Press of the Third Mind

DEAD ZINES

All of the following have ceased publication in the last few months:

•THE ACTIVIST
•AMIGA BITCHES

•**ANCESTRAL FAITH** (but back issues will remain available indefinitely)

•**BURNING TODDLERS** has suspended publication for this quarter, due to a desperate need for submissions: nonfiction, fiction, humor (black to gallows) and/or serious/investigative articles are desired. You can contact them at PO Box 56942, Phoenix, AZ 85079, and be sure to include an SASE.

•**CITIZEN'S PUBLISHING DIGEST**

•**ERASERFACE**

•**GLOBAL RESTORATION MAGNET**

•**HOODLEMS HAROLD**

•**KALLISTI**

•**MICRO MAN**

•**PAGAN FREE PRESS**

•**PSYCHIC SEX TURNIP**

•**RANDOM WRITINGS** (incorporated into **LIVING FREE**)

•**REJECT**

•**S.E.T. FREE** (Founder Mary Dixon is on an extended hike; the Oakland chapter of the Society for the Eradication of Television will carry on.)

•**SPORADIC DROOLINGS** (Dave Burokas will write for **THE BIG TAKEOVER** in the future).

•**SUB ROSA** has suspended their magazine, but plans to issue chapbooks from their new address (see above).

ERRATA

•In my review of **BARSTOW UNIVERSE**, I managed to get the state wrong. If you had any trouble with mail to this zine, please try again. The correct ordering info is: $1 from Robin Reed, PO Box 1803, Manchester, CT 06040.

•**EXPRESSO TILT** is $2 by mail, not $1 as I stated.

•Last time I said that FAIR, the publishers of **EXTRA!**, were Fairness and Accuracy In Media. That, of course, would be FAIM, and they really are Fairness and Accuracy In Reporting.

•**HEY DADDYO** is 20 pages long, not 10.

•"infinity Looks A Bit Too Obvious", which I praised from **NEW HOPE INTERNATIONAL** last time, was not written by Stephen Middleton but by Ed. Jewasinski.

•Last issue I suggested that **SIGNAL** should contain some reference to **A PATTERN LANGUAGE**, by Christopher Hill. While Christopher Hill has written several excellent books, that's not one of them. **A PATTERN LANGUAGE** is by Christopher Alexander. (Fortunately I doubt that either one of them reads FF).

T-SHIRTS

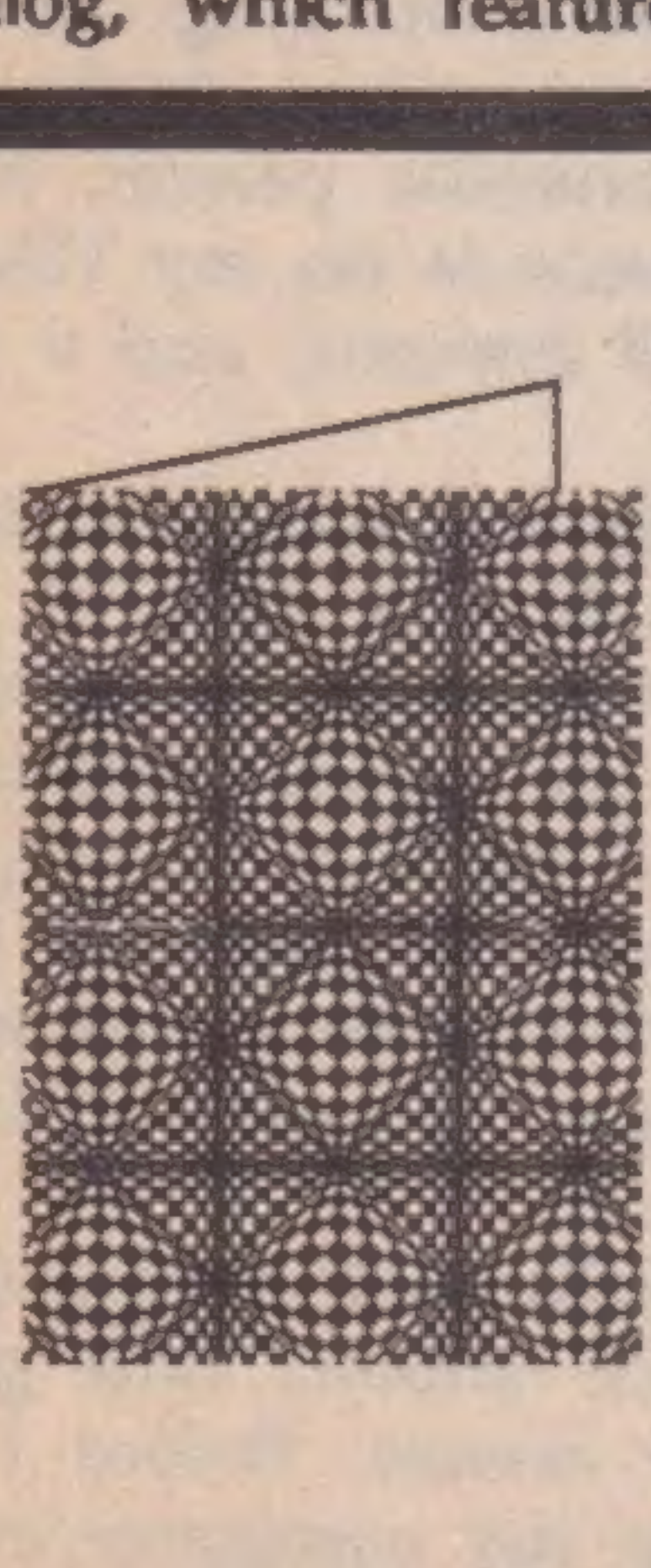
Yes, they're still coming. This time around, we've the following additions to my wardrobe. Remember, I love to advertise for the lunatic fringe, and the preferred size is Medium or Large.

•**ARTLESS** (Seidboard World Enterprises, PO Box 137, Prince St. Stn., New York, NY 10012) is out with two different t-shirts. The first features the cover art from the "Crassdriver" album, guaranteed to piss off fanatical punks of any political orientation and probably not safe to wear to the club. The second features the Mona Lisa with her face crossed out and is captioned "ARTLESS: THE BAND WITH GUTS." Great stuff for the nonconformist. The Crassdriver shirts are normally $8 and the Mona Lisa ones (perhaps slightly irregular) are $7, but you can get $1 off those prices by mentioning you saw them here.

•The **BABY SUE** T-shirt commemorates both the zine of that name and LMNOP, the record label and group that puts it out. The LMNOP logo is on the front, and the back features Baby Sue in her own bizarre look. Black on bright yellow, $8 from S. Fievet, PO Box 1111, Decatur, GA 30031-1111.

•The **COLLINWOOD REVISITED** shirt (reviewed in FF29) is $10 from Bruce Yarbor, 2306 N. MacArthur, Oklahoma City, OK 73127. Bruce writes, "The vampire on it is Barnabas Collins, the main character in DS. The woman in the wedding dress is Maggie Evans, whom Barnabas tried to take as a wife by force."

•**CUSTOM TONGUE** (PO Box 17863, Denver, CO 80217) sent me their catalog, which features a variety of shirts with punk and hardcore indie label logos, plus a selection of bondage pictures. They also sell cassettes from folks like Warlock Pinchers and Treble King.



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BLUE SWAN COMMUNICATIONS

•**FUN MAGAZINE** (919 S. Main #104, Royal Oak, MI 48067) sent a beautiful postcard-style shirt for "Greetings From Detroit: The Murder Capital of the World". 7 colors combine to make it absolutely eyesplitting, with little vignettes of violent death in the outline letter spelling out the city's name. They explain that "The design is not intended to be derogatory to the City of Detroit. The shirt ridicules those who would have unfounded fears and unjust opinions as to their safety in Detroit". I still don't think I'd wear it there, but for $13.75 (M/L/XL), you might.

•**DARK SHADOWS OVER OKLAHOMA** ($10 from PO Box 75033, Oklahoma City, OK 73147) has another Dark Shadows shirt for sale, white ink on a black shirt, featuring the main series characters as well as the club logo. For an extra $12 you can join the club itself, and get the monthly newsletter, a bumpersticker, and a bright yellow "Dark Shadows Fan On Board" warning sign, complete with suction cup. Shirts are discounted to $8 for club members, and the bumper sticker is $2 by itself.

•**LITTLE CITY IN SPACE** is a radio show from the Minneapolis area that plays all sorts of good new music seldom heard elsewhere, with a distinct experimental feel to it. Their T-shirts feature a cheerful 4-color image with monorails and strange skyscrapers and a very 50s art deco feel to it. $12 each in M-L-XL from Post-Void Radio Theater, PO Box 19427, Minneapolis, MN 55419.

•**SHOTS** ($7 from 304 S. Fourth St., Danville, KY 40422), the photography tabloid, sent along one of their shirts. It features a chalkboard-like sketch of a guy's torso with the classical camera icon hanging from around the neck. Will certainly make your interests in photography clear to almost anyone.

•**SOMA/ADDICTION** t-shirts, featuring the dark psychedelic look of the latest issue's cover, are $5 from Thomas, PO Box 35526, Atlanta, GA 30332. The front of the shirt features the multicolored cover with its perplexing hidden face, and the back has a "Support Progressive Independent Journalism" logo. XL only.

•You can still get on Freddie Baer's private list by joining the **T-Shirt of the Month Club.** $22.50 will get you three months worth of limited-edition shirts as a test run, after which you'll probably mortgage the dog to join for a full year. Write to Freddie at c/o Mystopia, PO Box 410151, San Francisco, CA 94141-0151. The March shirt was something of an esoteric battle between Shaitan and Gabreel, a topical shirt to say the least — informally known as "The Satanic T-shirt". The April shirt is a real eye-grabber of squared images, quite similar to the cover of this FF. Guaranteed to perplex passersby.

•Edgar "Bolt" Upright (104 W. Main St. #4, Carrboro, NC 27510) calls his design "Rainbow Skulls", and that's just what it is: nine grinning skulls on sort of an op-art field, printed in a spectrum of colors from blue through green, yellow and orange to red. It's charming, with the pattern on the front and back, and would make marvelous decor for quitting your job. Available in large and XL on heavyweight cotton shirts for $10 postpaid.

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES:

•**BEYOND THE SUPERNATURAL**, by Randy McCall & Kevin Siembieda ($19.95 & $2 postage from Palladium Books, 5926 Lonyo, Detroit, MI 48210): A rather more ambitious production than the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles games, this is for folks who want to recreate various horror and psychic settings from fiction (or fact?). The rules include a full character ability and background generation system, psychic monsters, a new magic system designed to be eerie instead of just a firepower substitute, ley lines and places of power, weaponry ancient and modern, and lots more. One could easily get lost in all this with little trouble — better have some GMing experience before even attempting to run a BTS campaign.

There are of course a few sample scenarios included to get one started. Obviously these will need to be changed a bit if the players also have access to the book, but they're a good jumping-off point. A couple of these are designed for "victim" characters, apparently the main emphasis of an early version of the game. Victims get out of situations by running away or being slaughtered, and the authors seem to have found it understandably difficult to convince players that this was fun. So a bunch of "Psychic Character Classes" were added — everything from Ghostbusters-type scientists to mages versed in ancient knowledge to telekinetic folks to skeptics whose belief provides a psychic shield.

This looks like a well-done set of rules which, despite its length, allows much flexibility for the GM. It would be easy to set up a Lovecraftian world using this framework — or one matching the supernatural slasher film of your choice (indeed, one of the introductory scenarios calls for the players to play teenaged girls). And of course it integrates with the other Palladium games. Get a copy and make life a lot more uncertain for your players and their characters. (S-256t)

•**MUTANTS DOWN UNDER**, by Erick Wujcik ($6.95 & $1.50 postage from Palladium Books, 5926 Lonyo, Detroit, MI 48210): This is a "Sourcebook" compatible with the basic **TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES** game [see FF29] — not entirely self-contained, but rather a set of additional rules and ideas to extend a campaign into a new area. The basic scenario is that of a post-bomb world, where technology has been largely wiped out by the Anti-Metal Virus. However, things are getting back to some semblance of civilization in the Australian area. The island of Tasmania has a bit of a human colony hanging on to the old traditions (as well as some new ones like farming giant mutant insects as meat animals). The mainland is home to the aborigines (still surviving despite the ways of others) and a variety of mutant animals. Unfortunately, the fly in the ointment is the Jakartans, from the old Indonesia area, who are bent on conquest and have a number of interesting technological innovations to help out.

There's all sorts of fun things here for the relatively gonzo gamesmaster. Game design information for all manner of Australian animals is provided, as well as sociological and technological background on the contending regimes. There's also a set of rules for airship design and combat which (of course) fit in with most any of Palladium's other games. Finally, the book wraps up with a couple of sample scenarios to get things rolling and a small glossary of Aussie slang. All in all, it looks like a fun way to spend a good deal of time in a wild future shock world. (S-48t)

•**THE REF FIELD GUIDE**, by Kevin Siembieda ($9.95 & $2 postage from Palladium Books, 5926 Lonyo, Detroit, MI 48210): This is not a game in itself but an add-on for the Robotech series of games. Now, when I was a kid we played sensible RPGs with dragons and trolls and maybe the odd robot or two rather than Japanimation cartoon characters — but I guess times are changing. Actually, I suspect this will sell to folks not interested in the game at all, since much of it is original artwork from the model sheets used in animating the cartoons. It's a bit difficult to see what the players and refs need with page upon page of drawings, unless of course they're not familiar with the original source. But fans of the show are going to love it.

There's a few other odds and ends here, notable game stats for a variety of non-player characters and a couple of full-fledged scenarios (which of course should be altered before use, since the players will probably buy their own copies of this book). But the major thrust of this book is to flesh out the Robotech universe rather than to advance the game mechanics. (S-148t)

GAMES & NOVELTIES

These first four items all come from the wonderful and strange Archie McPhee. On the Archie McPhee stuff, the minimum total order is $10, and there's a $3 flat shipping charge (you must supply an address that UPS can go to). Their address is PO Box 30852, or you can phone them at 206-547-2467.

•**#9099 Happy Face Bendy** ($2.95 or $14.99/6): A 6" tall bright yellow rubber guy (sort of like Gumby) with bright yellow skin, a grinning happy face, white Mickey Mouse gloves, and unstylish black shoes. For anatomical realism he has a belly button (an "outie", by the way) and definite cheeks to his ass. An Archie McPhee exclusive — who else would have been this depraved?

•**#9065 "Pray With Rev. Ewing" Jesus Night Lights** ($3/4 lights): The sterotypical wimpy Jesus face on a small white night light. Around the perimeter it says "Jesus is the Light the World•St. John 8:12•Pray With Rev. Ewing", and even the sellers have no idea who Ewing is. Likely to be equally offensive to atheists and educated Christians, especially after you get done finding sacrilegious places to put it. There's one next to my computer as I type.

•**#9068 Smiley Face Night Light** ($2.95): Your standard neon bulb dressed up with an almost 3" across "Have a nice day" style happy face. So happy looking it will infuriate you almost immediately. The glow is strongest where its nonexistent nose would be, fading off towards the edges — sort of like the classic drunk, or Rudolph the reindeer, though this is yellow rather than red.

•**#8922 Voodoo Doll** ($4.50): Another McPhee exclusive, a nine inch tall bright red vaguely humanoid figure with the instructions "We think you know what to do with this. And we hope that you only use the white pins. However, since you have free choice in this life, we have supplied the black pins as well. This is not a toy — keep away from children and nut cases." There are various important events and happenings printed on it to aid in proper use: you can wish for (or against) such things as nose hair, car towing, enlightenment, flat tires, happiness, and weight gain. Sure to perplex visiting in-laws.

•**BEATLE SIGNIFICA** ($4 from White Album Editions, PO Box 1114-GY, Lanham, MD 20706): A trivia game featuring 832 questions about the Beatles, plus rules for playing it in groups without a board handy — making it very portable as the questions come on a small deck of cards. We playtested this a bit at the recent **FACTSHEET FIVE** party, and rapidly concluded that it was challenging enough for experts — with half a dozen music-oriented folks having at it, only one of us could consistently get more than 10% of the answers. Oh, sure, even I can get the answer to "Identify the Beatle song: 'We're gonna have a good time.'" But there are a lot more questions like "Paul chomps vegetables on which Beach Boy song?" Despite its toughness, the game is fun and fast-paced, and should either elate or deflate Beatles fanatics.

SOFTWARE

•I will review IBM-PC compatible software personally, and have reviewers for Macintosh, Apple II and Commodore 64 software, so if you know of any interesting programs for these machines, please put them in touch with FF.

•**CREATIVITY PACKAGE** ($9 from R.K. West Consulting, PO Box 8044, Mission Hills, CA 91346): Three 5 1/2 inch disks of MS-DOS shareware with a $29 registration fee, all designed to unlock your creativity and help you both generate and evaluate new ideas. The first disk has the text of Thomas Easton's **THINK THUNDER! AND UNLEASH YOUR CREATIVITY**, an extensive introduction to basic creativity theory and the idea of computer-assisted creativity.

The second disk has the actual Thunder Thought program, which generates stream-of-consciousness words, phrases and sentences for you, using a vocabulary which you can customize to your particular interests. This serves the dual function of giving an almost inexhaustible store of ideas and removing them from you so that you can evaluate them more objectively. The program is fast and fun, slotting words into sentence shells to produce decidedly offbeat results. There's a certain skill involved in turning this nonsense into usable ideas, but I find that it does help to prime the pump in brainstorming about some new idea.

Disk 3 has a second program, Versifier. This is a very structured poetry generator that strings together phrases from a large vocabulary which is designed to be customized by the user — you can choose to input new verb phrases or action phrases about people, for example. The poems produced stick to a few set patterns (including haiku) and there's enough structure to the whole that I have no doubt that many of these could slip by editors with only minimal testing.

•**HYPERSTATIC** will be a Hypercard stack database of "art works, presses and projects in any or all of the areas touched on by networking arts." The first version should be available in August 1989. For more information send an SASE to 911 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245.

•**MACWANKER 1.0** and **PORNWRITER** ($4 from Rober Carr, 2210 North 9th St, Bosie, Idaho 83702): Both shareware programs came on the same 3.5" disc. I presume to be called a "wanker" is not complementary in Idaho, or maybe you just don't "wank" in front of your grandmother. Regardless, this first one generates — apparently by randomly accessing a data file with wank words — what are supposed to be obscene phrases. An example of the gems this creates is "corn-holing/glamorous/douche bag," which is relatively mild. As an added bonus the computer screams when the word "republican" is in the phrase and it frequently flatulates with conviction.

The second program proceeds on the assumption that most letters to the editor (can you say Forum) in porno mags contain some basic elements. Thus, in a manner somewhat similar to wank generation, this program produces pornographic letters. The main plot element is a pair of sisters moving in next-door, and if you can't figure the rest then just find a couple of 16-year-olds and they'll fill you in. Neither of these takes a particularly liberal position on wanking, and the programming is rather primitive - - but then we're only talking a $4 shareware fee. Mac II and Multifinder friendly. (pj)

•**PUP** ($10 from Tom Jennings, Fido Software, 164 Shipley, San Francisco, CA 94107) is the software which I am now using for the **FACTSHEET FIVE** BBS. Tom is also the designer of FidoNet, but this is a completely different product, designed for those who remember that the idea of a BBS is to talk, not to screw around with dozens of commands and security levels. So Pup is a pretty simple product, which allows public messages only (no passwords) and allows the sysop to define up to 16 "topics" to group them under. There's also provision for ASCII, ZMODEM and XMODEM uploads and downloads. If you've got an IBM computer, want to set up a bulletin board, and like the idea of a sweet and simple system, you need look no further.

•**SPYBASE** ($35 from Micro Associates, PO Box 5369, Arlington, VA 22205): This is what software should be: quick, easy to use, bulletproof, unique and useful. SPYBASE is a specialized database, with something over 75,000 citations to references on 38,000 or so people and individuals in "the intelligence community, the right wing, Latin America, the East Coast foreign policy establishment, domestic surveillance, assassination theory, and big business." Author Daniel Brandt has painstakingly indexed hundreds of books and periodicals, from **COUNTERSPY** to the **WASHINGTON POST** to books by Agee, Hougan, and Oglesby.

Using the software is simple. If you have a hard disk you just copy everything over to it (about 1.8 megabytes), type in "SPYBASE", and you're off. If you only have a two-floppy system, it's no problem; the program will prompt for data disks. You can then search by name, phonetically, by country, or by source; finding all the entries on a particular person, from Ronald Reagan to Kerry Thornley, takes only a few seconds on my 12MHz '286 clone. (Versions are also available for various CP/M systems, and a Mac version is coming).

The result of a search is a list of references to books and journal articles which mention your subject. If you don't happen to have a copy of, for example, Ashman's **THE CIA-MAFIA LINK**, Brandt will copy the relevant pages for you at the bargain rate of $12 an hour and 10¢ a page. Searching by country gives you a whole list of names, as well as a graph of activity by year in that country. Searches can also be sent easily to your printer or to a straight ASCII file for further editing. All in all, SPYBASE is a very solid and useful piece of work, and I hope Brandt continues updating it for a long time to come.

•**ZAUM GADGET** ($10 from AutoCeptor ExperiMedia, 1341 Williamson, Madison WI 53703): This is a hypercard stack which should find great appeal in the visual poetry and experimental audio arenas. Before I go further though, let me warn you that this locked up my computer once. There is essentially no documentation so hypercard novices beware. Hint:

holding the [command] key and pressing [period] interrupts the program, then holding the [command] key and pressing [space-bar] returns the hypercard menus.

This stack takes the user through a maze of bizarre visual images. Although there are occasions for some user input involving dialogue boxes, the main vehicles for interaction are hypercard buttons — and they're all over the place, each calling for patience because it takes some time to return to earth after actuating one. There doesn't seem to be any principle theme, just countless psychedelic images and sounds. The accompanying flyer reads as follows: "...found...in Babelian ruin dated 9999 BC & deciphered from a since forgotten machine language. It is thought that Zaum Gadget was a subliminal event-structure capable of subtlely manipulating the beliefs of any participant." Whatever else it may be, it's undeniably creative. Hypercard required; Mac II and Multifinder friendly. (pj)

OIL PAINTINGS

Like I've said before, I'll review almost anything....

• In late January Jethro Deluxe of the SubGenial rock band The Wallmen sent me a pair of his full-color productions. The first, "Full Size Bug Shield", is done in oil paints, 9 by 12 inches. It's heavy on dark, earthy colors, shot through with occasional streaks of primary colors, all radiating out from the center in the manner of a meteor swarm. The title seems rather appropriate despite the abstractness of the image. A more recent work is untitled, but it's acrylic, 11 by 14 inches. This time there's a sort of green and black border surrounding pastels that recede towards infinity in small rectilinear bits of color, like the bits of a mad computer's memory. It's too bad I can't reproduce these works here, but if you come over to my place, I'll happily show you where they're displayed. Or you can get your own original Jethro Deluxe painting for $50, at least 18 by 24 inches unless you want something smaller. (Checks payable to S. Wilson, c/o Wallmen, 7711 Lisa Ln., North Syracuse, NY 13212). As the artist points out, "I'm not a trained artist, but I'll be dead someday and they might be worth something."

•Just before press time I received a small painting from the nice folks at the Dumb Artists Collective, publishers of **AMBIENT STORMTROOPER REVUE** (172 Chestnut St. #209, Springfield, MA 01103). It features bright primary swatches hovering over a neutral brownish background, perhaps a figure rising from flames or, alternatively, a graphic portrayal of gastric distress. They dub the style "crypto-artistic passionate expressionism", and whether they're selling these things is anyone's guess.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

•**The Libertarian Book Club** is hosting *me* for a talk the night of May 25th. The final topic isn't set yet, but it'll have something to do with the radical underground press, I'm sure. Festivities start at 7:30 at Workman's Circle, 369 8th Avenue (corner of 29th), New York.

•This isn't going to give you much warning, but the 1989 **Cryofest** for members of cryonics organizations is being held May 26-29 in Lake Tahoe. For more info, call Fred or Linda Chamberlain at 916-577-4746.

•**The Institute for Social Ecology** is offering classes for the fifteenth year in its 1989 Summer Semester. They start June 11 and run through August 5. Courses include a studio on "Design and Sustainable Communities", a 4-week course on "Ecology and Community", and a "Sense of Self/Sense of Place" wilderness experience. For more information, write them at PO Box 89, Plainfield, VT 05667 or call 802-454-8493.

•**The National Green Gathering** will be held in Eugene, Oregon June 21-25, 1989. To register for the conference ($250 for five nights) contact the Southern Willamette Green Assembly, 2826 Baker Blvd., Eugene, OR 97403.

•**The 20th Anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion** is being celebrated in New York City June 21-24 by a mixed bunch of radical faeries and queer anarchists with "direct action, street theatre and outdoor urban camping". For more information contact Mickey at 337 E. 8th St., New York, NY 10009; (212)-477-1427.

•**The Humanist Advent Concept** is a week-long concert and festival being organized by the publishers of **THE AFFILIATE** — contact them at 4322 Cleroux, Chomedey, Laval, Montreal, Que. H7T 2E3, CANADA.

•I hear the '89 **Rainbow Family Gathering** will be out in Nevada this year, the usual July 1-7 week. I don't have the exact details handy, but I think you can get them from the **ALL WAYS FREE** folks at PO Box 515, Memorial Union, 800 Langdon St., Madison, WI 53706.

•**STOP-GRO** (Stop Prosecuting Grass-Roots Organizers, the group formed to protest the ridiculous New York City anti-postering laws) is holding a gala all-day, all-night benefit on July 2nd at the new Wetlands club at 161 Hudson St. Try to make it to the show if you're in the area, both for the impressive lineup of performers and for the community support.

-O-B-S-E-S-S-E-D—W-I-T-H—G-O-L-D-?

IS THERE ANY SUCH CONCEPT AS A LAWFUL gold standard in America or a lawful gold dollar? In fashioning your response, please consider: A gold dollar was unheard of in America or in any of the world PRIOR to the founding of the United States. Therefore, when the Founders utilized the word dollars in Section 9 of the Constitution, they must have meant what all then understood to be a silver coin benchmark of 371.25 grains of pure silver. To assume otherwise • would same indicate a belief that the Authors of the Constitution were a stupid lot, ready to place the American people permanently upon a cross of gold, which world's supply of that metal may be easily locked into one small room by any entity with the means to acquire same? True ☐, False ☐. ---- #1004.

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•**Without Borders** (c/o Bound Together, 1369 Haight St., San Francisco, CA 94117) is the name of the 1989 continental anarchist conference & festival (or "gathering", as some would have it). For more information send 'em an SASE. This year it's going to be in San Francisco from July 20-25.

•**The 1989 Festival of the Swamps** will be held August 23rd through 27th in Madison, Wisconsin. This is an annual performance, mail, sound, xerographic and other alternative arts event which has been growing fast. For more information write Xexoxial Endarchy, 1341 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703, or call (608)-258-1305.

•**Grassroots Convention '89** is for people involved in a grassroots approach to dealing with hazardous waste or solid waste in general. It's October 7-8 in Northern Virginia (final site not yet set). For more info, write CCHW, Convention '89, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216 or call (703)-276-7070).

•**Fortfest '89** is a gathering of Forteans and other researchers of the anomalous, being held November 11-12 in McLean, VA. Details from International Fortean Organization, PO Box 367, Arlington, VA 22210.

•**The Earth Concert** will be December 31st of this year, and is planned to be a 12-hour live telethon and concert from around the globe which "will offer the world an opportunity to unite in a spirit of peace and global cooperation and consider what we can do to save our planet from environmental devastation." For more information send 3 IRCs to Earth Concert, Anse St-Jean, Quebec, CANADA G0V 1J0.

•A national **Lesbian Conference** is in the early planning stages, with the event itself to take place in 1991 or perhaps 1990. The next planning meeting is in Portland in July of this year. I don't have more details as of press time but if you keep an eye on publications like **GAY COMMUNITY NEWS** I' sure they'll be announced.

MAIL ART:

•**AFM**, the Alterior Facial Mandala, is still active pumping out artistic chaff to confound the radar of culture. The latest is a quick four-question quiz that holds the key to the universe, followed by a manifesto for a sweeping revolution in our artistic paradigms. Contact Rian Fike, 18 NW 100 St., Miami, FL 33150 for more details, or to supply more details of your own.

•**Torquil Anderson** (51 Leamington Terrace, Edinburgh EH10 4JS, SCOTLAND) sent me an "artist book", made up of three small acrylic and photocopy paintings held together by pasteboard and lines of black ribbon. It's rather charming, except for the strong solvent smell from the glue, which I trust will dissipate in time. I expect your own piece of handmade creativity would be an appropriate trade for such as this.

•**Brian Blight** (2024 Roseland, Flint, MI 48506) is continuing his long-term mail-art project: "Send me 3 photos - Any Subject - and I'll send 3 in return."

•**BRAIN CELL** is a continuing mail-art poster project from Ryosuke Cohen, featuring dozens of rubber stamps reproduced in psychedelic colors. To get involved, send your stamp to Ryosuke at 3-76-l-A-613 Yagumokitacho, Moriguchi-City Osaka 570, JAPAN.

•**Jethro Deluxe** (c/o Wallmen, 7711 Lisa Ln., North Syracuse, NY 13212) reports that he's gotten into "Tacky airbrush mail art", available to anyone doing a mail art show anywhere in the world. The one he sent me is on about an 11x17 sheet and features a multiple-pastel colors explosion with various dots and balls and stuff embedded. You could do this on a computer for a few million bucks, but getting in touch with Jethro is cheaper.

•**FaGaGaGa** (PO Box 1382, Youngstown, OH 44501) remains ready to send stickers, cards, balloons, tickets and other random stuff to anyone who writes, preferably with entertaining junk of their own.

•**The International Shadow Project**, a continuing effort to awaken people to the horrors of nuclear war through art, has announced a mail art exhibition at San Diego State University. Send works by July 15 to Harry Polkinhorn, 720 Heber Ave., Calexico, CA 92231.

•**Reuben Pinkney** (c/o Art Hilary, Workshop, Bath Old Rd., Radstock, Bath, Avon, BA33 HD, ENGLAND) is collecting "DIAGRAMS, real or imagined" for a book project, with a copy of the book going to everyone who participates. Deadline is June 5th.

•**Ruggero Maggi** (C. so Sempione 67, 20149 Milan, ITALY) sent me a pile of mail art stuff, including a report on the Hiroshima Shadow Project and more on The Pig Gina's campaign for President of just about everything. Artistic swaps no doubt appreciated.

•**Packet O'Fun!** comes from Hitler's Brain Press, c/o G. Trievel, Rt. 113, Box 481, Lionville, PA 19353. It's a 6x9 envelope with stickers, stamps, gun wrappers, cards, ad promos, and other basically paper flotsam stuffed inside. They ask 89¢ for it, or will swap "for zines, tapes, toys, cereal, etc."

•**Geza Perneczky** (Gr. Witschg 3-5, 5000 Koln-1, WEST GERMANY), sent a fill-page diagram captioned "The Theory of the Second Publicity and its Relation with the Elite Art and the Anti-Publicity". In its geometric structure of 9 levels with three boxes on each level it rather reminds me of some of the charts Tim Leary has done for his octave theories. Anyhow, this is to be the basis for his next book.

•**Postcards and Souvenirs From Non-Existent Places** is the theme of a mail art exhibition to be held in September 1989. Documentation provided. Contact SALON, 305 W. Magnolia St. #386, Fort Collins, CO 80521.

•**The Remote Scientific Base Mailart Traveling Gallery** is collecting 8 1/2x11 pieces of art for exhibit in the arctic, antarctic, and other unlikely places. For details contact Mark Rose, 9037 Palatine Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103. Deadline is June 30, 1989.

OTHER NEWS:

•**Acid Stings** is aiming to become "one of the largest outlets for fanzines in the world". If you're interested, send one copy of your zine and an IRC for reply to them at PO Box 22, Hitchin, Herts., SG4 0HA, ENGLAND.

•**The Adult Video Association** (270 N. Canyon Dr. #16570, Beverly Hills, CA 90210) is a trade industry group for producers and retailers of adult videos. Membership is $50 per store, and includes a newsletter that tracks current law and other important matters.

•**AGNOSTIC FRONT** has started a legal defense fund for one of their members, who is "wrongfully incarcerated." They have some info & a special re-pressing of an early record available for $11 at PO Box 20114, Tompkins Square Stn., New York, NY 10009. The stuff they sent me doesn't say what the charge was.

•**ANIMADVERSION** (PO Box 228, Ulysses, KS 67880) has a couple of posters available designed to enrage various folks: frat boys, feminists, the forces of law 'n order, whoever. Pretty funny stuff, but only if you dare to be politically incorrect with your laughter. Send a stamp for samples.

•**The Apa Info Service** (c/o Tim Gatewood, PO Box 12921, Memphis, TN 38182-0921) is a Bureau of the N3F (National Fantasy Fan Federation, a science fiction fan group) devoted to keeping track of the ever-changing world of apadom. If you have info on or questions about apas, get in touch with Tim.

•**Artware** (Uwe Hamm-Furholter, Taunusstrasse 38, D-6200 Weisbaden, WEST GERMANY) bill themselves as "Suppliers of Extreme Cultures in Records, Tapes, Videos, Printmedia, etc.". They sell lots of alternative and experimental music and related items. Try a handful of IRCs for more info.

•**A.V.P.M.** (PO Box 178715, San Diego, CA 92117) has a variety of pamphlets they will send out for an SASE. One indicts subliminal self-help tapes as a scam, one cautions against the mind-destroying properties of New Age music, and the rest are screwy cut-ups on subjects like information and flirtation.

•**THE BABY CONNECTION** (PO Box 13320, San Antonio, TX 78213-3320) is in need of artists who can draw babies, pregnant women, expectant fathers and so on. Send a sample of your work to editor Gina Morris. They pay $5 for each item used.

•**BARBIBUSTERS** (c/o Mary, PO Box 144, West Oneonta, NY 13861) is a continuing interchange of scraps of neo-culture that happen to make their way to Mary's mailbox. This ranges from drawings and prints to bits of lyrics to the occasional letter. The basic idea is to network non-conformists together; they'd be happy to see new and exciting (but short) works for publication if the artist wants to communicate as well.

•**BASIC CHOICES** (1023 Drake St., Madison, WI 53715-1609) is largely the energy of John Ohliger directed towards getting together people and ideas of interest to those involved in adult and continuing education. Along the way he picks up lots of neat quotes, writes short essays and columns, and generally gets the old brain cells firing. For a sample of his latest output send a buck or two.

•**The Bear Tribe** (PO Box 9167, Spokane, WA 99209) is a multicultural group founded and guided by Ojiibwa medicine chief Sun Bear. They offer a variety of seminars, tours, vision quests and what-not to interested parties. For their 1989 Activities book, send about $1.

•**BECOME AN ENVIRONMENTAL SHOPPER** is the title of a new pamphlet from the Pennsylvania Resources Council. It's targeted at people who still patronize supermarkets, and urges them to keep the 4 R's in mind when shopping: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Reject (excessive packaging). It's aimed mostly at state residents, but could inspire anyone to start making less trash. Copies are $2 each from PRC, PO Box 88, Media, PA 19063.

•**The very first Bellowing Ark Press book catalogue** is out now and I'd say you can get a copy for 50¢ from PO Box 45637, Seattle, WA 98145. They offer a batch of literary magazines, books by new writers, and even off-the-wall things like **FACTSHEET FIVE**.

•**Black Rose** (PO Box 2684, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130) is an anarchist group that sponsors a series of regular lectures in Boston. They're also in the process of forming an anarcha-feminist group.

•**BRAIN DEAD #7** had all-different all-original-art covers. If you missed the originals, it's not too late; the official set of 144 color slides is now available for $100. For more information, contact John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111.

•**Box 160, Newbury, 44065**, is the address for someone or some group who sent me a collection of little slips of paper with thoughts on the world food and energy situation, the desirability of nuclear war, and the need for a Dept. of Life Engineering at the cabinet level. No ordering info — send something intriguing and you might get something back.

•**BROADCAST INTERVIEW SOURCE** (2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW #406, Washington, DC 20007-4104) compiles a resource directory for talk shows and news organizations. If you're interested in being listed, and can afford the minimum $120 fee to get aboard, ask for their introductory material.

•**The Campaign for a New America** (PO Box 1026, Loveland, CO 80539) is working towards the election of a "spiritual/humanitarian" President by the year 2000. SASE should get you more info.

•**Doug Chapel Comics** (38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520) in addition to all his regular titles, is putting out bizarre 4-page pamphlets with titles like "Forced Reproduction" and "The War" — sort of collage crossed with comics. Try an SASE for a sample.

•**Chi Pants** (120 Pearl Alley, Santa Cruz, CA 95060) sells a variety of styles of all-cotton pants with gussetted crotches, which are supposed to give you all sorts of freedom of movement and good vibes. Write for a catalog.

•**Dr. Doug Clark** (PO Box 1170, Tomball, TX 77375-4636) is the latest preacher to hit me with hilarious advertising. Besides playing "TV•Conventions•Hotels•Churches", he's written such books as **666 AND THE TOTAL OBSERVANCE SATELLITE OF THE ANTICHRIST!** and **HOW TO PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, WITHOUT THE BIBLE**. A small donation will probably put you on his mailing list for a long time.

•**Randall Cohen** (532 S. Ninth St., San Jose, CA 95112) sent me a couple of packets of photocopies, which he'll make available for $2 each. The first is a random assortment of panels from old comics and issues of **CRACKED** magazine. The second is much more marginal and more revolting: a variety of medical photos including much forensic work.

•**The Collaboration Projekt** is an effort by Luigi to construct a collaborative document about the process of collaborative writing. It should be well underway by now, but you may still be able to get on board by contacting him at Burning Press, PO Box 18817, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118.

•**Concerned Singles** (PO Box 555, Stockbridge, MA 01262) is a group of single folks who "share life-affirming, humanistic values". Members are given self-descriptive statements from other members, and a code-number forwarding system is used to protect privacy. There are over 500 members, and a 6-month membership is $45. SASE should get you more information.

•**Constance Enterprises** (PO Box 43277, Upper Montclair, NJ 07043) sells a variety of sexual esoterica, including rubber and latex zines, leatherette teddies, and mild bondage accessories. SASE for catalog.

•**COSMEP** is "The International Association of Independent Publishers". They publish a monthly members-only newsletter full of trade hints, hold seminars to teach you to publish better, and display members' wares at major conventions. However, the membership is a comparatively steep $50 a year. If you're interested, you can write them at PO Box 703, San Francisco, CA 94101.

•**Norman Crowhurst** (1512 SW Fairview, Dallas, OR 97338) is still working to disband the IRS, which he alleges was set up by Nazi 5th columnists. For information on this and much more, send him a few bucks and ask to be placed on the mailing list for his regular letters.

•There is a new catalog available from **dbqp** (225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305) for an SASE; it lists all of the works from this artistic press, both in and out of print, together with prices where still available.

•**Death of Shane Paul** is the title of a single-page poster available for an SASE from Peter Petrisko, Jr., PO Box 56942, Phoenix, AZ 85079. It reports on the last public appearances of Phoenix artist Shane Paul before he went completely round the bend and provoked the cops into shooting him.

•**X. Sharks DeSpot** (2225 Montego Dr., Lansing, MI 48912) is "looking for the music of jazz man/woman Billy Tipton, the woman who lived her life as a man, complete with adopted kids and a wife."

•**DREAMSHORE** (PO Box 1387, Bloomington, IN 47402) announces that they will no longer take subscriptions due to infrequent publication. The latest issue, #30, is still available for $3.50; back issues are $1.50. Still free to prisoners and mental patients, and the writers' guidelines are still free for SASE.

•**Earth Care Paper Co.** (PO Box 3335, Madison, WI 53704) sells a variety of recycled paper products, including note cards, gift wrap, computer paper, note pads, and much more. The originals for this issue of **FACTSHEET FIVE** were printed on some of their paper. Send $1 for their catalog of products.

•**The Embassy of Heaven** (PO Box 77, Sublimity, OR 97385) has a booklet out called the **CITIZENS OF HEAVEN HANDBOOK**, explaining how to sever your ties with the state by renouncing your old name and accepting a new drivers license, vehicle registration, and so on, from the Kingdom of Heaven. Its members have spent quite a bit of time sitting in jail on charges relating to this practice, but it you're interested a donation of a few bucks will probably get you on their mailing list.

•**EMERGENCE** (c/o Jim Miller, PO Box 296, West Mystic, CT 06388) is a new tabloid, looking for "environmental horror stories, witty social comment, and pretentious, self-indulgent ramblings." Debut issue will be out in June.

•**EXPRESSO TILT** magazine wishes to make it known that they have temporarily stopped reading submissions — so don't send them anything for now, OK?

•**FAN-ATIC PRESS** (c/o Allen Freeman, 157 Northwood Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601-1477) is sponsoring two comics fan clubs. Membership in the Ralph Snart Fan Club is $7, or membership in the Rocketeer Fan Club is $10. Both of these are endorsed by the creators of the respective comics — for more info, drop Allen a line.

•**FANDOM HOUSE** (PO Box 1348, Denver, CO 80201) has their spring catalog of independent comics out. They carry material from such fine folks as Howski Studios, Colin Upton, Not Available and Jabberwocky Graphix, to name a few. Send a stamp for your copy.

•**Flatland** (2550 Shattuck Ave. #56, Berkeley, CA 94704) has a new mail-order catalog to go with their new address. They stock a wide variety of marginal, radical, artistic and downright obscure publications. This is 52 pages of typeset mini, so send a buck or two to cover their costs.

•**FREEDOM NOW!** is a project hoping to get 1000 libertarians to move to Fort Colllins, Colorado by 1991, so as to have a sort of "critical mass" of freedom lovers in one place. For more information contact Mary Margaret, 1317 Lakewood Dr., Fort Collins, CO 80521.

•**FROZEN MOTION** ($5 (?) from PO Box 832, Brookline Village, MA 02147-0832) is a new set of cards with erotic images from Mike Manning, who produced **SHUNGA** last year. This time there's a pretty heavy bondage component to the treatment of the buxom young women portrayed in slippery line drawings here. 9 drawings in all, printed on textured card stock.

•**FUEL FOR FREE** is an 11-page booklet from Carl Cella (D-22706, PO Box 8101 4176-X, San Luis Obispo, CA 93409) with plans and details on building a trunk-mounted hydrogen generator to run your car on rainwater. Unfortunately Carl is in prison, so he can't make copies himself, but he's anxious to have other people sell them and send a buck or so in for each copy sold. If you're interested, send him a 9x12 envelope with 75¢ postage and an explanation of how you plan to spread the word. He also asks that anyone getting one of his few copies send a couple back in to help him out.

•**The Fund for Open Information and Accountability** (145 W. 4th St., New York, NY 10012) will send anyone who wants on a kit on how to use the Freedom of Information Act to examine and correct their own files. Copies of the kit are $3 each.

•**Gentle World** (PO Box 1418, Umatilla, FL 32784) sells a variety of books, tapes, candies and what-not designed to support vegans in their pursuit of a healthy and ethical diet. Try about $1 for their catalog.

•**Wayne Honath** (332 Atlanta Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1125) reports that he has a few sets of the Jonestown Massacre trading cards for sale at $8 each.

•**The Hospitality Exchange** (c/o Joy-Lily, 116 Coleridge St., San Francisco, CA 94110) is a group of people who make their homes open to other travelling members when it's convenient — as it often is. Membership is $15, and there are around 125 of us now. The more, the merrier; send an SASE for more information.

•**The Illinois Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program** (624 S. 4th St., Springfield, IL 62703) invites residents and former residents of downstate Illinois who are also Vietnam Era vets to submit poetry or short prose for their publication **NOTES FROM THE VETS CENTER**.

•**David Lee Ingersoll** reports that he's all out of calendars, but he's reprinted the artwork from this year's as a set of 12 postcards titled "Dear Aunt Hortense". This is an even better product than the original, since the notes on the back explain some of the characters in each drawing. Wonderfully twisted. ($3.50 from PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402). David also has a set of five miscellaneous cards featuring his other characters available for $1.50 — similarly charming.

•**The Ingersoll Memorial Committee** (c/o Free Inquiry, PO Box 5, Buffalo, NY 14215) is trying to raise funds to repair and preserve the house of historic freethinker Robert Ingersoll and open it, stocked with freethought books, to the public.

•**The Intergalactic House of Fruitcakes** (PO Box 235, Williamstown, MA 01267) is the home of Otis worship, and an active node in the network of crazies and kooks that's out there. They've recently published their **OTISIAN DIRECTORY**, a collection of collages, rants and addresses that reads like a low-budget **HIGH WEIRDNESS BY MAIL**. Send a buck or so for your copy, or an SASE for more info.

•**The International Music Workers Union** was involved in a faction fight at the start of the year, with founder Ron Gould and the Union Council in Orange County accusing each other of various improprieties and taking legal action. In mid-February a group of Union locals agreed to return the International Office to its former location, with Ron helping get it back on track, so it's now reachable at PO Box 3266, El Segundo, CA 90245. You

SHUNGA·FROZEN MOTION·UKIYO X
VOID-EDGE DESIRE / EROTIC IMAGES / STAMP OR IRC FOR CATALOG
MICHAEL MANNING · PO BOX 832 · BROOKLINE VILLAGE · MA · 02147 0832

can write them for more information, and while you're at it, ask them for some of their recent anarchist posters.

That's version #1. Version #2 is that Ron was put on probation and then expelled from the Union, and that he has responded by violently threatening the members of the International council. They say Ron has no support from other locals and are publicizing his alleged misdeeds. For more information on this side of the story, you can write the IMWU at PO Box 2246, Anaheim, CA 92814.

I don't pretend to be in a position to pronounce on the "truth" of this matter, but I will say I've gotten much more material in support of Gould than otherwise.

•New York based distributor **INTO THE NIGHT NEWS** is no longer in business.

•**"Is the Libertarian Party Dead?"** is the rhetorical question asked by the Tax Abolition Caucus (c/o CNS, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677), who propose tax abolition rather than elections as a focus for the party in the future. SASE for more details.

•**The Kooks Database**, with the adddresses, publication, prices, rating & type of over 150 kooks, is available for $5 from Donna Kossy, PO Box 953, Allston, MA 02134.

•There is some good news on the struggle to free **Sharon Kowalski** and reunite her with Karen Thompson (background on this case is in the BOOKS section of FF29). In February they were able to meet for the first time in 3 1/2 years, and since then Karen has been able to visit Sharon 2-3 times a week and participate in her therapy. A court-ordered evaluation of Sharon's condition is finished and in the hands of the judge. However, lots of things are still up in the air, and donations are still needed by both the Karen Thompson Legal Fund (7115 Country Rd. 8 SE, St. Cloud, MN 56304) and the National Committee to Free Sharon Kowalski (1725 17th St. NW #515, Washington, DC 20009).

•**Charles Krafft** (3951 Fremont N., Seattle, WA 98103) is working with a co-author to put together "a raffish anthology of information on the history of gluesniffing", and would be glad to receive accounts of personal experiences or other relevant data.

•**LUNO** (31960 SE Chin St., Boring, OR 97009) is a wonderful thing for people who like to play with words and phonetics; Gene Lehman is fascinated with such things and his enthusiasm is contagious. If I'd grown up with this stuff I might have learned to write doggerel, or at least spell better sooner. Send about $2 for some sample pages.

•The 12th **Archie McPhee** catalog is out, filled with 51 pages of wonderful novelties and hilarious ad copy (see above for a few of the products they stock). It makes good reading even if you don't want to order a rubber chicken, a lawn flamingo, or a metal rocket ship from Hungary — not to mention the glow in the dark 6" rubber slugs. All the toys your mother wouldn't let you buy as a kid, plus even more disgusting ones that have been invented since. The catalog is $2, from PO Box 30852, Seattle, WA 98103.

•**Gail Metzger**, publisher of **DROP DEAD OKLAHOMA** (PO Box 580393, Tulsa, OK 64158-0393) writes, "I am trying to put together a prose & poetry zine which will contain nothing except those (no ads, reviews, etc.). It will include a contact list of writers for the zine. I am taking contributions for my review currently. Not all poetry will be accepted....People should include their name as they want it printed on the contact list."

•**ARCHIE McPHEE & COMPANY** (PO Box 30852, Seattle, WA 98103) is *the* place to go for the interior decor of the nineties: inflatable plastic sharks, lawn flamingoes, glow-in-the-dark cockroaches, 2 pound rubber lizards, plastic ants, fake teeth, and much, much more. An incredible selection of novelties. Send $2 for their hilarious 64-page catalog.

•**Midwest Personal Security** (PO Box 228, Ulysses, KS 67880) bills itself as "the only security company catering exclusively to America's struggling left." In particular, they sell various size sprayers filled with CS military tear gas for $7 and up — to folks who guarantee they meet their own state's possession requirements, naturally.

•**NEWS ABOUT NOISE** (1354 Pt. Washington Blvd., Pt. Washington, NY 11050) is *not* out of business, despite any rumors you may have heard to the contrary. #4 should be out some time this summer.

•**The Occult Census** (c/o Sorcerer's Apprentice, The Crescent, Hyde Park Corner, Leeds LS6 2NW, ENGLAND) is trying to compile an accurate statistical picture of occultists in the British Isles to aid in combating bad press coverage. If you live there and you're interested, drop 'em a line with an SASE.

•**Operation Green Thumb** (49 Chambers St. #1020, New York, NY 10007) is a New York City sponsored program for urban gardening. The city leases lots cheap, clears the junk off them, and provides classes and basic supplies to get community gardens started. Then it's up to the community to keep them going. For more info get in touch with Jane Weissman, who directs the project, at the above address.

•The **PEACE ACTIVIST REVIEW** has three database printouts available that are pretty self-explanatory, so I'll just list them here: **DIRECTORY OF 353 COMMUNES, COMMUNITIES, & CO-OPS IN THE UNITED STATES, DIRECTORY OF 150 FOUNDATIONS THAT GIVE MONEY TO THE U.S. PEACE & JUSTICE MOVEMENT**, and **LISTING OF 569 PEACE GRANTS AWARDED SINCE 1987**. They're $7 each from 406 5th St. SE, Washington, DC 20003. Also from the same address is the rather dauntingly titled **A CHRONOLOGICAL DATABASE AND TIMELINE OF EVENTS COMMITTED BY OR TOWARDS COUNTERCULTURE GROUPS CHILIASTIC SECTS. UTOPIAN REVOLUTIONARIES, PACIFIST COMMUNITARIANS, AND VARIOUS AND SUNDRY DISSIDENT MOVEMENTS THROUGHOUT HISTORY FROM 6 AD to 1660, WITH ESPECIAL ATTENTION PAID TO THE 16TH-CENTURY ANABAPTISTS.** If everyone wrote titles like that I wouldn't have to write reviews. Anyhow, this 24-page listing of 2-line entries is also available for $7.

•**Pulchritudinous Productions** (Christine Bzdawka, 1227 N. Milwaukee St. #22, Milwaukee, WI 53202) is putting together a collection of work by women artists and writers for distribution to various conventions, women's organizations and departments. Send an SASE for more info by the end of May 1989.

•**Red Rose Gallerie** (PO Box 1859, Burlingame, CA 94011-1859) sells a variety of New Age products, including books, tapes, crystals, games, cards, pins, and MacIntosh rune-casting software. Their 32-page color catalog is $2.

•**REFUSE & RESIST** (305 Madison Ave. #1166, New York, NY 10165) has a new pamphlet available called *The Father of the "Right to Life" Movement* — recounting the assiduous anti-abortion activities of Adolf Hitler and his cronies. You can get 100 copies for only $6 postpaid.

•**The Royal Order of POOBAH(E.)** is a fraternity for happy campers all over the place, with awards for youth and plenty of silly traditions. For more details you can get in touch with them at PO Box 5060, Ft. Smith, AR 72913.

•**SALON** (305 W. Magnolia #386, Fort Collins, CO 80521) is preparing a special Summer issue with the theme of "Artists and Reincarnation". They're eagerly seeking everything from anecdotes to theoretical writings on the subject.

•**A.C. Samish** sent along another three sheets of bizarre art, including strange machines, physics, excited engineers and half-naked women, along with bits of collage and cryptic messages of great urgency. You can get your own copy by sending a 25 ¢ stamp to him at 2118 Guadalupe #191, Austin, TX 78705.

•**See Hear** (59 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10003) has their 9th mail-order catalog of music zines and related items, including books, comics, art and outre video, available for $1.

•**Seventh Generation** (126 Intervale Rd., Burlington, VT 05401) sells somewhat yuppie-looking "Products for a cleaner, healthier environment". These range from solar-powered battery chargers to biodegradable bags to low-energy light bulbs to a "Save the Whales" game. Try sending a buck for their current catalog.

•**"Shake, Rattle and Roll: The Goddess, Lady Liberty and the Coming Times"** is a romp through astrology and esoteric history by Yael Dragwyla, examining the prospects for this country int he light of its natal chart and the portents of the recent election. Yael argues for a rapid destruction of the patriarchy over the next nine years and a final fulfillment of the ideals of Lady Liberty. The full package, with about 20 pages of interpretations as well as the applicable charts, is $4 from PO Box 45792, Seattle, WA 98145-0792.

•The Finnish pagan group **Sirius** (PO Box 452, 00101 Helsinki, FINLAND) has stickers available showing one of the Egyptian female deities in front of a bunch of hieroglyphics, printed on silver adhesive paper. $1 for 5 of them, ideal for sealing letters.

•**SLIPSTREAM** (PO Box 2071, New Market Stn., Niagara Falls, NY 14301) is currently seeking poetry, prose, artwork, comics and collages for a theme issue on "The working stiff".

•**SOCIETE** (c/o Technicians of the Sacred, 1317 N. San Fernando Blvd. #310, Burbank, CA 91504) reports a price increase, effective immediately: $6 each, or $10 for 2 issues.

•**Spotlight Starman**, the group trying to get the Starman series back on TV, now has Regional Coordinators in most states. The one for New York is Jill Wells (8 S. Dorado Circle #2B, Hauppauge, NY 11788; if you're interested, drop her a line and she'll put you in touch with the right person for your area.

•**Survival International USA** (2121 Decatur Pl. NW, Washington, DC 20008) "is a worldwide human rights organisation supporting the rights of threatened tribal people to their lands and to a secure and dignified future." You can become a member for $20 but it doesn't stop there — like Amnesty International, they ask you to write letters to governments demanding basic rights for people. I do this, as do some other marginal folks who you ordinarily wouldn't suspect of putting out for a good cause. I note that the World Bank recently canceled a rainforest development project in Brazil that had been one of our targets.

•**Lauren Swain** (1320 Fairfield Dr., Boulder, CO 80303) has a portfolio of her rather bizarre line drawings, titled "Sights for Sore Eyes" available — 8 full-size drawings on cardstock for $4.50.

•**Swami Nirmalananda** sent me some of his pamphlets for a "Revlutionary Spiritual Life", which seem to be mysticism from the land where it's still top of the charts. For samples, try a few IRCs to Viswa Shanthi Nikethana, B.R. Hills - 571313, Karnataka, INDIA.

•**The Temple of the Eternal Light** (928 E. Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11230) is a Pagan group offering sleeping arrangements for like-minded travelers, mail-order courses, and various networking services. They also have banners, tapes, and other magickal items for sale.

•**The Thelemic Arts Center** (27 Teetsel St., Saugerties, NY 12477) presents an ongoing series of readings, workshops, and exhibitions in their quest to encourage creativity of all sorts.

•**THIS MONTH** is the monthly salvage and parts catalog from H&R Corporation. For a buck you can get on their mailing list and be tantalized by offers of motors, relays, switches, television equipment, gears and other electromechanical whatnot at reasonable prices. 401 E. Erie Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19134-1187.

•**TRAMP** is the new title of **RANSOM** magazine, reflecting an increased scope. Editor Alan Howard is adding reviews and non-fiction to the poetry and short fiction the zine has contained. Guidelines available for an SASE from PO Box 1386, Columbia, SC 29202-1386.

•**TWISTED ISSUES** (Charles Pinion, PO Box 1261, New York, NY 10013-0867) sent me a special catalog issue, listing bizarre print, video and audio works available from these purveyors of the gothic and punk. Send 'em an SASE for a copy.

•**THE UNDERGROUND FOREST/LA SELVA SUBTERRANEA** is putting together a library tour of about 50 kilos of small press publications from Latin America. If you know of someplace interested in hosting this exhibit, drop a line to Joseph Richey & Anne Becher, 21 Forest Ave., Portland, ME 04101.

•**Edgar "Bolt" Upright** (104 W. Main St. #4, Carrboro, NC 27510) sent a whole pile of pamphlets, stickers and posters, "free in exchange for something equally odd." They are rather odd indeed: swimming texts that make no sense whatsoever, op-art stickers, xeroxed bones, masses of collage and industry on the rampage.

•**Glen Venezio** (2315 Bayhead Dr., Parlin, NJ 08859-2423) has a couple of interesting projects going. One is "Lettart", an envelope stuffed with bits of drawings and pictures and some of Glen's other correspondence, allowing you to play voyeur. That's available for an SASE plus an interesting letter. The other thing is performance art on his answering machine at (201)-525-2895 — "This month I'm doing excerpts from a play by Fiona Templeton called *YOU: The City.*"

•**The Wiccan/Pagan Press Association** is a new networking group designed to communicate faster within the Wiccan community. For details, contact John Kurluk at PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231-6186.

•**WILD CHILDREN** is a forthcoming zine from Peter Lamborn Wilson (PO Box 568, Brooklyn, NY 11211-0568) which will feature exclusively work from those ages 17 and under, showing young people as free and adventurous. They're soliciting material now, and contributors should include their age and a stamp with submissions.

•**R.B. Wilk**, the publisher of **BURNING ISSUES**, has been caught up in a drug bust involving her landlords. Considering that her newsletter has always advocated marijuana law reform as a way of cutting down on abuse of harder drugs, this looks like harassment, or at the very least an unfortunate coincidence (her landlords had a private lab elsewhere in the house). Contributions may be sent to the R.B. Wilk Defense Fund, c/o Ralph Fucetola III, 23 River Rd., N. Arlington, NJ 07032.

•**The Witches' League for Public Awareness** (PO Box 8736, Salem, MA 01971-8736) is a non-profit organization working to "dispel harmful and malicious media misinformation about witches." More info for an SASE.

•**The Women's Amateur Wrestling Association of Howell** (Kirk Gilfallen, PO Box 18, Howell, NJ 07731) is branching out from cheesecake and topless shots of wrestling and boxing women to B&D shots and VHS tapes as well. To get on their mailing list send $2.

•**The World For Free** (c/o Seidboard World Enterprises, PO Box 137, Prince St. Stn., New York, NY 10012) is still recruiting new members. If you join you get listed in the address book, and you also get a copy, and then you can call other members looking for crash space — and vice versa. For more information, send a #10 (legal size) SASE.

•**The World Federalist Association** (PO Box 15250, Washington, DC 20003) is a part of the "world-wide movement for world federation." They have a lot of free pamphlets and rental videos available. Write for their catalog.

•**The World Series of Poker** is hosted every year by Binion's Horseshoe Casino & Hotel (128 Fremont, Casino Center, Las Vegas, NV 89101). You can get on their mailing list and receive glossy publicity brochures about this wonderful event just for the asking.

•**ZIGGURAT** (PO Box 25193, Rochester, NY 14625) has issued a new edition of Mickey Spillane's **I, THE JURY**, "Abridged for the Modern Reader": all the way down to 4 pages, leaving in only the most essential sex and violence. A copy can be yours for $1.

★★★★★

FACTSHEET FIVE PROJECTS

•The FF Bulletin Board now features electronic versions of several zines. Recent arrivals include **THE INDICATOR** #68, 69 and 70 and **THE ALEMBIC** #1. This is a great place to get zines for the cost of a phone call, and to be able to leave messages directly for the publisher.

•I now have available for other publishers a list of distributors and stores who would like to see new zines for possible sale. It provides as many details on what they want and what their terms are as I know. Send me an SASE (be sure to tell me what it's for!) and I'll send you a copy. Currently represented: Art in Form, Blacklist, Flatland, Gulf of Maine Books, Mac's Backs Paperbacks, Memory Hole, Mirilton, Paper Plant, Primal Plunge, See Hear, Tower, and Wooden Shoe. These are the distributors who have provided special information; by late June I will have updated the list to include all of my distributors, so you might want to wait until then to get a copy.

•The collected book of Anni Ackner's columns is out at last!. The collection is called **NOBODY LOVES A VISUAL ARTS CRITIC**, and it features all of her writings from FF, as well as four new columns (unavailable elsewhere), an introduction by Elayne Wechsler and graphics by Freddie Baer. At 134 pages, it's even bigger than I expected, and a better value. You can get a copy book rate for $4, or first class for $5.50. 75% of the profits are going to Anni, so I'd really like to sell a lot of these. Think what they'll be worth in twenty years when she's a wealthy mainstream author.

•**FACTSHEET FIVE** T-Shirts, designed by Freddie Baer, are now available for a measley $8.50 postpaid. The only color available is yellow, but it's a yellow that will knock your eyes back into your skull, not some wimpy pastel color. Well, actually, the second edition is a bit wimpier (so you early buyers, you have a collectors' item!), but still beautiful. Specify size or we'll send you whatever we feel like. Think of the possibilities for starting a conversation!

•I now have a new set of **FACTSHEET FIVE** ads available, also typeset and put together by Freddie Baer. In the future I may swap or pay for some of these to be published, but meanwhile if you want to give me a free plug write and I'll send you a copy.

•I am still offering the **FACTSHEET FIVE** mailing list on self-adhesive labels. This issue's list of around 3000 names is available for $105. If you prefer, you can get the list on plain paper for $80. I can also provide specialty lists (all fanzines, all distributors, all music zines, all artists, or most anything else you can come up with) for 5¢ a name on labels or 3¢ a name on paper.

•I am also prepared to offer the mailing list or the contents of FF itself (sans art and columns) on IBM-PC compatible DSDD diskettes. The mailing list is archived on one diskette and I'll include the shareware DBMS I use on a second diskette. *You must have a hard disk to access the FF mailing list!* If you are interested in getting the actual text of the zine on diskette, please contact me to discuss appropriate hardware and software, or check the FF BBS. You can get the mailing list set for $12.

•If anyone doesn't want their name given out on mailing labels or diskette, please let me know.

•**The Gemstone File** is a conspiratorial mishmash of theories that have been circulating in samisdat form around the US. I have copies of six different versions (something over 90 pages total) available for $9.00 total to those interested in this sort of thing — and I'm looking for more versions if you have any. (See the Books section in FF22 for more precise details on this item. One short variant has been added since that review was written.)

•Martti Koski's **MY LIFE DEPENDS ON YOU**, an account of RCMP mind control experiments, is available for $1.

•**The FF ZINE EXCHANGE** has been a great success this past quarter, and there's more good stuff than ever to be had for free. Zine Editors: If you're at all interested in having samples of your zine go to people who don't even know you exist, send as many as you want to me to distribute. The rest of you: Send me an SASE with 25¢ to $2.40 postage and I'll stuff it with whatever I have laying about ($2.40 is enough to mail a couple of pounds in the country, so use a decent-sized envelope [10x13 is a good size]: two pounds is about 8 issues of FF, OK?). You should also take a look at a rate chart; while $2.40 will cover postage on two pounds, $2.30 is only enough for eleven ounces. I'd recommend springing for the full two pounds. You might also take note of six similar offers:

Dallas Swan's (7206 Brookbank Ln., Raleigh, NC 27615) offer to fill up large SASEs with as many zines as they will hold;

Merritt Clifton's (SAMISDAT, PO Box 129, Richford, VT 05476) standing offer to sell you as many pounds of poetry as you want for $1.50 per pound;

Ellen Levitt's (1121 E. 22nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210) offer of rejected poems and short articles from the magazine she works for (TRUE LOVE, a romance magazine) for 25¢ & an SASE;

Jim Testa's (151 First Ave., Box A., New York, NY 10003) Demo Xchange of band demo tapes, also available for a few dollars postage;

Spoo's (1991 Madison St., Eugene, OR 97405) offer of "mysterious surprises" for 50¢ an ounce;

and Rosemary West's (PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346) offer of personalized computer-generated poetry for 50¢ an ounce, up to five pounds — send your name and the names of a few friends to assure personalization.

Anyhow, remember, send a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE to minimize the work I have to do. I mean it. The next person who sends a blank envelope and a check, instead of buying the stamps himself and pasting them on, is going to get something nasty in the mail. If he gets anything at all. OK, OK, I'll make an exception for those of you in foreign countries: just send me a check or cash and a self-addressed envelope and I'll do the rest. Those out of the country can supply up to $4.50 worth of postage, since the rates are higher. Those in the country should stop using such obviously glued stamps or I'm going to start pitching your envelopes in the trash. And please be patient; the overflow zines have been displaced to the attic by the archives, and so I only stuff envelopes once every week or two. I take longer when it's cold up there.

•I'm not reviewing hate literature in print any more, to preserve the sensibilities of some of my readers. But I still receive some. If you're interested, send an SASE for the current unpublished reviews.

•I haven't put together the index for this issue, but I expect it to be about a 16-page pamphlet. If you want to see a copy, send me a buck. To get it every issue, you should sign up for a library rate subscription.

•**HOW TO PUBLISH A FANZINE** is my first book, out now from Loompanics. In it I reveal darned near everything I've learned in ten years of small publishing, from production through printing and binding to the mails to promotion and financing. It's 91 pages perfect-bound, published by Loompanics, but I'll send you a copy of your very own — autographed even — for $6 postpaid if you buy it from me.

FACT SHEETS

GETTING ZINES

Just a few hints to consider when you're writing away for fanzines:

•If I list a name in the address for a zine, you ought to make checks or money orders out to that name rather than the zine name. If a zine has odd payment requirements, I try to note this in the address section of the listing. In general, cash is preferable to money orders which are preferable to checks.

•On a related topic, when I put a question mark after the price it means that I'm guessing because the zine editors didn't list a price.

•I list single copy rates whenever I can find them, otherwise I try to indicate how many issues your subscription covers. If I put something like "$10/yr" it means I can't tell how many issues come out in a year.

•On zines with a price under $1, it really helps to include a few stamps for postage. "SASE" means self-addressed stamped envelope: #10 with 25¢ postage unless otherwise specified.

•Don't send loose coins in an envelope. If you want to send coins, tape them to an index card and wrap a piece of paper around that. And remember that there's a postal surcharge on envelopes more than 1/4 inch thick.

•Canadians generally don't mind receiving U.S. funds, but for other countries you should think about alternative payment. Foreign currency is available at larger banks, and IRCs (International Reply Coupons, which can be exchanged for stamps almost anywhere in the world) at your post office. Foreign MOs are also available from the post office, but can take forever to get.

•"Age Statement" means that you should send along a signed note saying that you're over 18 (or over 21, if you are) to help the publisher avoid legal hassles associated with distributing sexually-explicit material.

•"The Usual" refers to the traditional method of obtaining SF fanzines without sullying oneself with cash. Generally this includes trading other zines, writing locs, contributing articles or art, or being recipient of a whim. These days $1 is often accepted as the equivalent to these more active approaches.

•I'd appreciate it if you'd mention **FACTSHEET FIVE** when ordering zines you saw reviewed here. It helps us all in the long run, as the more credibility I build up the more fine zines I'll be able to bring to your attention.

•If you have any problems with a zine please let me know. I'll be happy to contact publishers in cases of non-receipt. 99% of the time it's just a case of things being lost in the mail.

•If you have time, any zine publisher enjoys hearing comments on the zine he has sent you. This is especially true if you didn't like it; we all like to improve. Even a simple note of thanks can make a publisher's day, though.

•Many zine publishers print small quantities, so you may not be able to get the exact issue that I reviewed. If you must have that particular issue, say so, and be prepared to pay extra. Otherwise it's best just to request the most recent or the next issue and save trouble for everyone. And be patient; if the current issue is all gone, it may take a while.

ZINES

Sometimes I get publicity for zines without getting copies of the zines themselves. Here's the news on a few items that I haven't read for myself:

•**THE AMARANTH REVIEW** ($5.50 from Window Publications, PO Box 56235, Phoenix, AZ 85079) debuting this fall, will be "a literary forum for the expression of contemporary thought."

•**CHAMPAGNE HORROR** (#265 - 919C Albert St., Regina, SASK. S4R 2P7, CANADA) is a new magazine of classic horror fiction, poetry and artwork, scheduled to debut in December 1989 — guidelines are now available.

•**CINEMACABRE** ($4 from PO Box 10005, Baltimore, MD 21285-0005) is a zine for the fan of fantastic video and movies, ranging from *Forbidden Planet* to *Blood Massacre*.

•**CITY LIMITS** ($15/10 issues from 40 Prince St., New York, NY 10012-9801) contains information on homelessness, affordable housing, revitalization and other urban issues in New York City.

•**DUPREE'S DIAMOND NEWS** ($12.50/5 issues from PO Box 3603, New York, NY 10185) is a periodical for the Grateful Dead community, dealing with both the music and the social issues.

•**FREELANCE WRITER'S REPORT** ($40/yr from Cassell Communications Inc., PO Box 9844, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33310) is a how-to magazine for the professional freelance writer.

•**HORROR-SCIFI NEWS JOURNAL** ($1.50 from Dan Somber, 4190 Bedford Ave. #4J, Brooklyn, NY 11229) is a new fanzine intending to cover genre films in the theaters and on videotape.

•**JABBERWOCKY** ($4.50 from 7701 SW 7th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32607) is a zine of fantasy, horror and SF short stories, interviews, essays and poetry.

•**PHANTOM NOTES** (2 stamps from 334A N. 71st St., Wauwatosa, WI 53213-3746) is a letterzine and fanzine for those who enjoy the musical of that name by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

•**PROFESSIONAL WRITER** ($1.50 from NW Free Press, 14033 - 32nd NE #706, Seattle, WA 98125-3685) is a new monthly newsletter for the writing professional, ranging from market news to productivity and PR tips.

•**PULPHOUSE** ($17.95 from PO Box 1227, Eugene, OR 97440) is a hardcover limited-edition quarterly of SF and fantasy. Also available in a leather collectors' edition for $50.

•**SHAMAN'S DRUM** ($4 from PO Box 2636, Berkeley, CA 94702) is a quarterly "Journal of Experimental Shamanism" from the Cross-Cultural Shamanism Network.

•**SINGULARITY** ($1.50 cash/MO from Ron St. Ron Evans, 125 Salem St. #8, Boston, MA 02113) will be putting its first issue out right about now, with a mix of articles on fringe topics like weird erotica, the CIA & the mafia, shareright & copyleft, a "digital porn collage", and more.

•**WAVEMAKERS 5** ($5 from Mark Innes, 92 Queensdale Ave. E., Hamilton, ONT L9A 1K3, CANADA) will be a special anniversary issue of this quarterly comics digest anthology, 96 pages long.

•**WIN NEWS** ($5 from Fran Hosken, 187 Grant St., Lexington, MA 02173) is "an open participatory quarterly by, for & about women" which focuses on women's rights around the world.

•**WONTON CARRUBA #5** ($2 [no checks] from Aardvark Farms, PO Box 785, Glenham, NY 12527) is a 40-page collection of "Weird Psychedelic Surreal Comix Illustrations Stories".

THOSE FUNNY NUMBERS

What the little stuff in parentheses after each zine review do is tell you how big the zine is. First comes a letter for the size of the paper, or at least close to it:

A3	A3 size, about 11 1/2 by 16 1/4
A4	A4 size, about 8 1/4 by 11 1/2
A5	A5 size, about 5 3/4 by 8 1/4
D	Digest, 5 1/2 by 8 1/2
HL	Half Legal, 7 by 8 1/2 or 4 1/4 by 14
HS	Half Standard, 4 1/4 by 11
L	Legal, 8 1/2 by 14
M	Mini, 4 1/4 by 5 1/2
MM	Micro, smaller than mini
O	Oversized, larger than tabloid or odd-sized
Q	Quarto, 8 by 10
S	Standard, 8 1/2 by 11
T	Tabloid, usually 11 by 17 on newsprint

Next comes a number, which is the number of pages. Last there may be a suffix: "t" for typeset or laser-printed, or "r" for photo-reduced type.

ADVERTISING

FACTSHEET FIVE advertising space is available as follows:

Full Page	7 1/2 by 9 3/4
Half Page	7 1/2 by 4 3/4
Half Page	3 3/4 by 9 3/4
Quarter Page	3 3/4 by 4 3/4
Eighth Page	3 3/4 by 2 1/4
Card	2 1/4 by 2

Copy should be submitted as camera-ready, in the size it is to run. For sizes not on the list, please call me. *Please note: a standard business card is an* *eight-page ad; "card" ads are to run three across the page and will be reduced to fit if you send business cards but only pay $10!!* Current rates are as follows:

Back Cover with Second Color	$160.00
Full Page with Second Color	$140.00
Full Page	$120.00
Half Page	$65.00
Quarter Page	$40.00
Eighth Page	$20.00
Business Card	$10.00

Ads which are paid in advance for two or more insertions may take a 20% discount from the above prices — and are protected from price rises during the life of the ad. As I anticipate having to raise prices again in #31 as circulation rises, this is a good deal. If we hit 7500 copies by the end of the year I'll be charging about $180 for a full page. This discount does not apply to business card sized ads. This discount also does not apply to ads with a second color.

Ad space needing a second color, either back cover or interior, should be reserved with me before sending in copy, as this space is obviously limited. Other ads need not reserve space in advance, though you're welcome to do so.

Generally, I do not trade advertising with other publishers, though I make *rare* exceptions for those with a large circulation in areas that I don't ordinarily reach.

A blatant attempt
at social engineering
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Aeditorial
Sit Down!!

Just a bunch of bits and pieces this time...

•Now that the **FACTSHEET FIVE** electronic bulletin board is on a hard disk, we've started to carry various zines in electronic form. These include **JERSEY BEAT CONFIDENTIAL**, **CON NEWS**, **BEN WEASEL SKATE REPORT**, **ORLANDO INDICATOR**, and **THE ALEMBIC**. Some of these are not available in other forms, thus giving you another reason to call the board at (518)-479-3879 if you have a 300 or 1200 baud modem. Editors, I'd be pleased to post your zines on the board; they can either be uploaded or sent to me on MS-DOS 5 1/4 inch diskettes.

•I've come to the conclusion that fanzines are the pit bulls of 1989. Recently I've talked to reportes from **PENTHOUSE**, the Cincinnati **ENQUIRER**, the Cleveland **PLAIN DEALER**, the Orlando **SENTINEL**, and the San Jose **MERCURY NEWS**, all of whom seemed to think that self-publishing was suddenly big news.

•I'd like to take this bit of space to publicly thank (since I don't know how to get in touch with him privately) Howard Lonsdale, who refused to cancel a lease to hold a rally on his land when he found out it was the Nazi skinheads rallying there. According to **GAY COMMUNITY NEWS**, Lonsdale said "The real heart of my firm stand is free speech." I agree completely.

•We held the second occasional FF party in early April, and it was quite a success; probably the fanzine social event of the season. There will probably be a repeat performance late this summer. I invited most of those on my mailing list within a 3-hour driving range (another reason to subscribe); if you're further away than this but want to be notified of the next party (which will probably be in July or August), send me an SASE with "party" written on it and I'll see that you get sent the appropriate information.

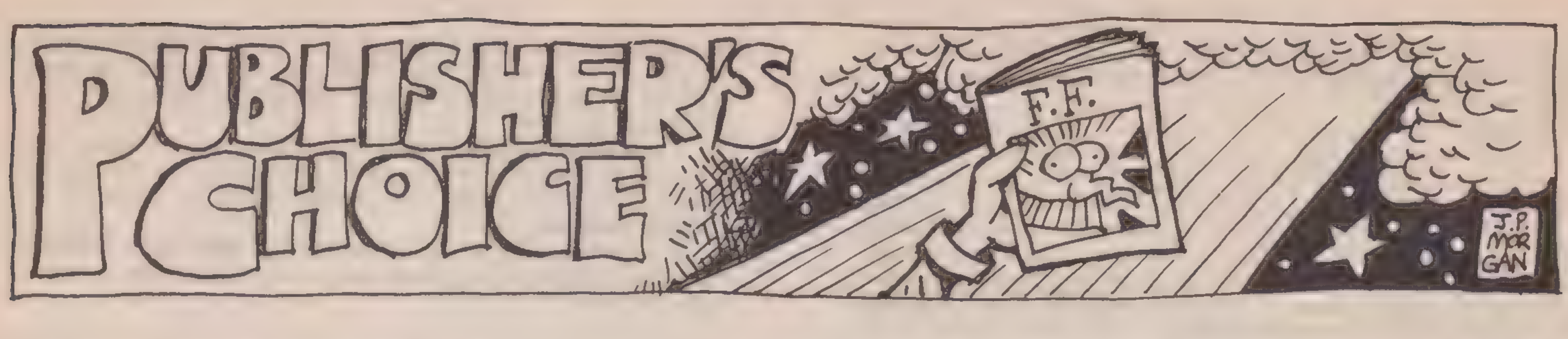
•If you're reading this in New York City, and it's not May 25th yet, I'd love to have you come out and catch my talk for the Libertarian book club that evening. Things will start up around 7:30 at Workman's Circle, 369 8th Ave. (corner of 29th), New York.

•I've been squabbling with several prisons lately about copies of FF that have been rejected. My advice if this happens to you is to first write a polite letter to the mailroom at the prison, asking for reconsideration. Ask that they send you a copy of the regulations indicating the reason for rejection. Make sure they understand the zine is mailed directly from the publisher and does not contain personal correspondence. If they still won't clear it for direct mailing to inmates, write again and offer a free subscription to the prison library. If this still doesn't work...well, anyone got any other bright ideas?

•Some of you were probably expecting to receive the February issue of **FACTSHEET FIVE** instead of this one. Alas, even though I had 5000 copies printed, I ran out of them in March. Circulation is growing so fast that I simply can't keep up. The moral to this story, of course, is that to be assured of getting a copy of each issue you should subscribe.

•Well, this is it. As of the start of May, **FACTSHEET FIVE** is my vocation as well as my avocation. Thanks to all who have supported this crazy idea so far, and I hope we can keep it going for many more issues. I have lots of big plans, though of course many of them are tied directly to the amount of income I can generate from this magazine. But stay tuned, because things are sure to be exciting.

This issue dedicated to
Abbie Hoffman
1936-1989



★★★★★

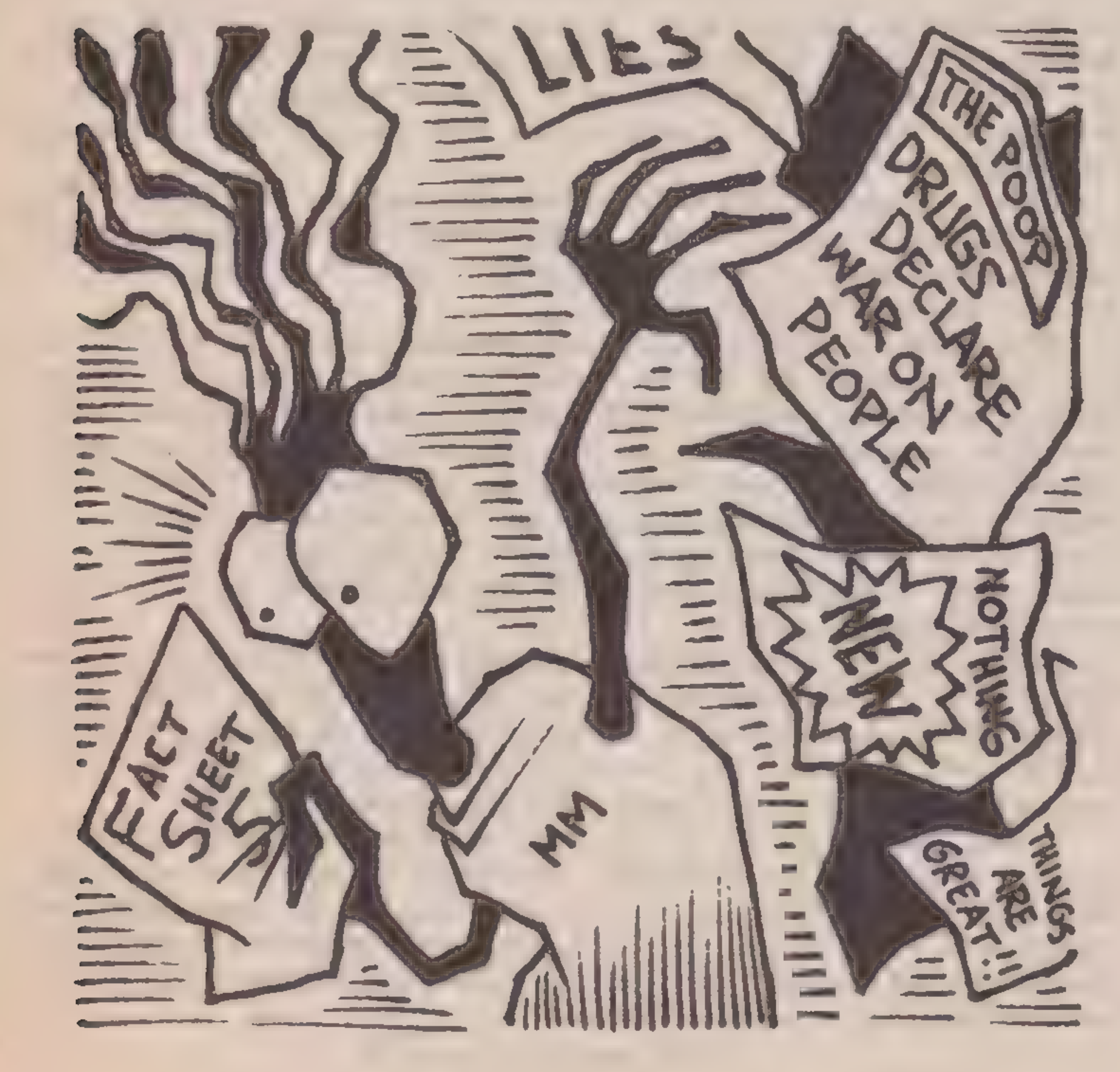
AFTERBIRTH #3 ($2 from PO Box 392, Decatur, GA 30031): A collection of interviews, poetry and prose that get really close to the bone of contemporary society. This is not about media stars but about real people trying to cope. #3 includes a chat with someone who does heroin for fun (one of several pieces about drugs), an interview with two strippers and one with a woman who was nearly killed by a Dalkon shield. There's also documentation of a ritual healing for a rape victim, Kerry Thornley on the modern holocaust, an interview with a street person, and some fervent poetry. Very straightforward presentation that is quite moving. (S-28t)

★★★★★

B-SIDE Vol. 3 #1-2 ($13/6 issues from PO Box 1387, Fort Washington, PA 19034): This music zine starts out Volume 3 with a face-lift — now a large format magazine instead of a tabloid — and a renewed commitment to covering the best bands in the US and abroad. #1 includes features on Icelandic and Soviet music, plus in-depth coverage of Siouxsie, Lydia Lunch, the Church, Rapeman, Pere Ubu, The Cocteau Twins, 3 Mustapha 3, and much more. Bruce Warren introduces a new column with a look at Afro-Pop and Carol Schutzbank and Rench continue to do journeyman work in the music reviews. #2 leads off with a sociological analysis of the messages of rap, and eases into coverage of Tiny Lights, Danzig, Skinny Puppy, and Fields of the Nephilim, just to name a few. Attractive and entertaining coverage of bands that stay away from the pure noise axis and concentrate on delivering danceable music. (O-50t)

★★★★★

ELECTRONIC COTTAGE #1 ($3 from Hal McGee, PO Box 3637, Apollo Beach, FL 33570): I'm really excited over the appearance of this zine and would love to see it thrive so it gets a special plug here. Having at last recovered from his years at Cause and Effect, Hal has started this zine, with the idea of helping keep track of and promote cassette culture — or, more broadly, underground music done by the musicians. There's an impressive line-up of articles in the premiere issue. Miekal And writes of the possibilities of "polymedia"; Chris Phinney discusses the Deaf Eye tape label; Daniel Plunkett provides a history of ND; Dave Prescott considers the "indie glut"; and PBK interviews Al Margolis, for example. There's also a batch of knowledgeable people writing reviews and a wide selection of ads from the underground. We desperately need a frequent, reliable window on truly independent cassette-based music; perhaps this can be it. (HL-64t)



★★★★★

NOVOID 6 ($1.50 from Colin Hinz, 349 West St. N., Orillia, ONT L3V 5E1, CANADA): I like this, and not just because I'm mentioned in it half a dozen times. Colin started out as a science fiction publisher, and many traces of that remain — notably the exquisite color mimeography and traditional buff paper. But in the two years or so since the last issue, his interests have swung towards the new art scene, and gradually the zine is following. This is a transitional issue, with a curious mix of things: Richard Brandt reviewing Martti Koski's peculiar pamphlet about mind control, comic reviews by several people including the editor, a piece on the politics of ball scratching from Dave D'Ammassa, and a lot of letters covering various and sundry topics. Stuffed toys and the value of literacy are also touched on. To wrap it up, Colin presents ambitious plans for future issues, in a friendly voice which runs throughout the zine. There's also an envelope full of bonus minicomics stapled inside and a Freddie Baer back cover. (S-42)

★★★★★

SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER #59-62 ($1 from Janet Fox, 519 Ellinwood, Osage City, KS 66523-3538): The indispensable market guide to the small press zines publishing SF, horror, fantasy and related genres. In addition to providing reviews and notices of submissions wanted, Janet keeps track of the pulse of the small press — things like reporting times, the proper use of art, and what sorts of things can't be published pop up in the reviews and letters. She also runs short articles on techniques and delivers flyers from various other magazines. On top of this, a couple of folks (including the perplexing t Winter-Damon) review other small press zines. Well worth it for any budding writer & most readers. Recent issues have been stuffed full of flyers from other publishers too, this means of getting info to writers having taken off amazingly well. (D-32r)

★★★★★

SCREAM Vol. IV #1 ($3.50 from AC Publishing, PO Box 10363, Raleigh, NC 27605): A nice mix of the visual and literary arts. These genres interpenetrate here, instead of just co-existing — for example, there are comic adaptions of Kafka and Baudelaire, plus an interview with minicomic artist Matt Feazell. The central "Rollywood Funny Papers" section features more comics, including an insert Stupid Boy mini. On the written side, there's a lovely drunken teenagers story by Jim Shell, an appreciation with several poems of Charles Bukowski, a downer story about a man who was nothing by William Ododm, and Richard Butner's puncturing of the superhero mythos. All is put together in a well-illustrated and crafted package, and produced with care. Hopefully they'll stick to their quarterly schedule this time around, but even if you can only get one, this is worth having a look at. (S-68t)

★★★★★

VAGUE #21 ($9 from Libertarian Book Club, 339 Lafayette St. #202, New York, NY 10012): OK, I admit it. I can be impressed by perfect binding, a great multiple/parallel-text layout, and stark graphics. But I don't *think* I would have liked this as much without the content. Editor Tom Vague and his henchmen have taken on the major art and political movements of the twentieth century and punctured a great many of them. Bob Black's "Feminism as Fascism" is right at home here, along with a critical review of Stuart Home's new book, a well-deserved roasting of the Class War brand of revolution, and a rather sneering investigation of cyberpunk. Punk music does not escape unscathed either, nor does the Animal Liberation Front. If there's a fault here it's a nihilistic tendency to revel in critiques without alternatives, but that may be forgiven in view of the razor edge to the critiques. Of most interest to those already familiar with the general milieu being forcibly deconstructed here, and quite fascinating if you've actually allowed yourself to be influenced by these various subcultures. (A4-114t)

★★★★★

YHOS 45-46 (The Usual from Art Widner, 231 Courtney Ln., Orinda, CA 94563): That stands for Your Humble Obedient Servant, the abbreviating being in line with Art's attitude towards simplifying spelling. This is a rather fannish fanzine (from the SF universe, for those who don't recognize the referent), rife with locs and recently railing about the hopeless bloat of worldcons. #45 is a rather short issue, thanks to some family medical problems, but still has enough meat to be worth reading. #46 bounces back with rich brown dreaming of being Francis Towner Laney, fans in the USSR, and a vibrant lettercolumn argument on what's wrong with fandom and conventions. (HL-36)

ZINES
FF
GLENN GRANT '87

★★★★★

10.-22.-38 ASTORIA ($7 from Colin Hinz, 349 West St. North #3, Orillia, ONT L3V 5E1, CANADA): Last October 22nd was the 50th anniversary of Chester Carlson's successful demonstration of xerography, and this is a collection of artworks using the technique in ways he never dreamed of. Contributors include Lon Spiegelman, Bob Sheridan, Miekal And & Liz Was, Michael Voodoo, Vittore Baroni, FaGaGaGa, and other well-known mail-art folks. Includes a packet of xeroxed postcards as well as contact addresses for all contributors. (S-68)

★★★★★

2600 Vol. 5 #4 ($18/yr from PO Box 752, Middle Island, NY 11953): All the information you ever wanted about using the telephone and computer networks in ways which their owners may not quite intend. #4 has an expose of more shady practices on the part of MCI, a basic guide to Unix, and an interview with members of the Chaos Computer Club, a notorious den of German hackers. (D-48t)

★★★★★

ABORIGINAL SCIENCE FICTION Mar./Apr. 1989 ($3.50 from PO Box 2449, Woburn, MA 01888-0849): These folks have found a successful formula for a science fiction magazine: short stories, full-color art, and chatty book reviews and contributors notes. There's also a column of speculation by David Brin and a lot of letters. The stories in this issue all feature aliens; I particularly liked the silly romance "The Indecorous Rescue of Clarinda Merwin", by B.W. Clough. Nothing too spectacular, no big names, but good writing on the whole. (S-63t)

★★★★★

ABRASAX #3 ($3.50 from James M. Martin, PO Box 1219, Corpus Christi, TX 78403-1219): A journal of ceremonial magick and related topics which is doing an excellent job. The theme of #3 is divination, with a handful of Tarot commentaries, an encyclopedia of odd forms of divination, and notes from people using various esoteric means of foretelling the future. Even the Ifa oracle of the Yoruba gets an article. (S-52)

★★★★★

ABSOLUTELY ZIPPO #7-8 (25¢ & a stamp from 1550 Mann Dr., Pinole, CA 94504): It's hard to tell how serious the publisher, a Mr. Eggplant, of this music zine is — but I think "not very" is probably the right answer. Outrageous scene reports, advice to burn the zine while reading it, and ever-so-sincere unity pleas mark #7. #8 has a capsule guide to the East and West Bay music scenes. (D-20)

★★★★★

ACTION BULLETIN #21 ($25/yr from CCHW, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216): This is a quarterly collection of news from all over the country courtesy of the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes. They fight against production and improper disposal of such waste, have an eye on landfill problems, and provide a lot of resources for people involved in action on the grassroots level. News bits from across the country here. (S-16r)

★★★★★

THE ACTION LINKAGE NETWORKER #26-28 ($50/yr from 5825 Telegraph Ave. #45, Oakland, CA 94609): Action Linkage is a group working to build decentralized ways of changing the world, and so far the infrastructure seems to be pretty well laid. The challenge now is to move on to social action, and recent newsletters have been devoted to raising the activity level among members. #27 institutes a Bulletin Board section to help spread the word of opportunities to act, while #28 reports exciting initiatives from a recent meeting. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE ACTIVIST #23 ($5/4 issues from DSA Youth Section, 15 Dutch St. #500, New York, NY 10038): This is the newsletter of the Youth Section of the Democratic Socialists of America, a group committed to social change by (as far as I can tell) evolutionary means. There's a lot of feminist connection in this issue, with articles on reproductive rights, socialist feminism, and organizing among women. Pretty impressive for a student production. (S-20t)

★★★★★

ADD-OPTION Vol. 3 #2-11 (On Request/Donation from AASK, 5150 N. Harrah Rd., Harrah, OK 73405): Newly upgraded, this is the newsletter of the Oklahoma chapter of Aid to Adoption of Special Kids, a group working to place children who aren't white infants in adoptive homes. They give leads on how to get started on a special kid adoption and also recount experiences from those who have done so in the past. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN TESTAMENT #1 ($1.25 from Magi Graphics, 3637 30th St., Detroit, MI 48210): Something new under the sun, or at least the first Christian small press comic I've run across. The lead character, the Crusader, is a "humant" — a person with strange mutant powers. He also happens to be a quietly dedicated Christian. This issue introduces the main characters, including arch-villian Mageddon — no points for guessing who he'll turn out to be. (D-16)

★★★★★

THE ADVOCATE Mar./Apr. 1989 ($1 from The Franciscan Sisters c/o The Peace Farm, HCR 2 Box 25, Panhandle, TX 79068): The publication of a group of social justice and peace activists who are living across the road from the Pantex nuke warhead plant. In addition to tracking the missile trains, they're concerned about everything from slanted reporting to domestic violence. A combination of powerful witness and deep dedication. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE AFFILIATE Feb.-Apr. 1989 ($20/yr from Peter Riden, 4322 Cleroux, Chomedey, Laval, QUE H7T 2E3, CANADA): A bizarre little music zine that's aimed to publicize all the folks who don't get publicized elsewhere. They maintain an active contacts list and also print pages of reviews and opinions from various subscribers. With the April issue they've gone full-size for easier reading. The magazine is holding its own gathering of congenial folks the week of July 1st. (D-32t/S-32t))

★★★★★

AFRO TIMES Vol. 2 #48 ($14/6 months from 1368 Fulton St., Brooklyn, NY 11216): A newspaper aimed at the African-American community. They cover a broad spectrum of local, national and international news in moderate depth, with particular attention to inner-city problems. (T-20t)

★★★★★

AFTER HOURS #2 ($4 from 21541 Oakbrook, Mission Viejo, CA 92692-3044): A magazine of horror "devoted *exclusively* to stories that come out after dark." This time around these nocturnal scares include David Beaty's rather silly but fun "Sleeping in a Strange Bed", a moody introspective "First Light" from Wayne Allen Sallee, and Ronald Kelly's "Black Harvest", a classic story of backwoods horror. There's also an interview with Janet Fox of **SCAVENGER'S NEWSLETTER** and a few odds and ends. (S-48t)

★★★★★

AGENDA Jan.-Mar. 1989 ($15/yr from 202 E. Washington #512, Ann Arbor, MI 48104): People tell me that Ann Arbor used to be a hotbed for the underground press, and this community weekly keeps the spirit alive. The February issue looks at homelessness in the county and investigates a new environmental group that may or may not be an industry front. This same group has very interesting ads in all three of these issues. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ALASKA METAPHYSICAL COUNCIL NEWSLETTER Jan.-Mar. 1989 ($12/yr from PO Box 9-3006, Anchorage, AK 99509-3006): A variety of New Age beliefs and practices come together here. The January issue plugs Peace and looks into some Chinese astrology. February has predictions for 1989 (tongue in cheek) and some more traditional astrology, plus commentary on this winter's cold snap. (S-10r)

★★★★★

THE ALBANY CARTOON JOURNAL #5-6 ($13/25 issues from 279 Washington Ave., Albany, NY 12206): A collection of cartoons designed to lure people into picking up this free zine and so reading the ads. They feature quite a few big names, including Life in Hell, Sylvia, Bizarro and Motley's Crew, along with political cartoonery on the issues of the day. (S-12)

★★★★★

ALIVE AND DIRECT #3 ($1.25 *Cash/stamps* from Pete Reilly, 20 Worths Mill Ln., Princeton, NJ 08540): A friendly little music zine that's definitely focused on the punk scene. Interviews in #3 cover PED, No Fraud, Agnostic Front and, on the written side, Jim Testa from **JERSEY BEAT**. There's also some reviews and a good batch of pictures, mostly bands but also a few skaters. (S-30)

★★★★★

THE ALPHABESTIARY ($1.50 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016) is a new display alphabet by Brad Foster. Each letter is rendered as a full (albeit small) page critter. Snakes, dragons, birds, and less classifiable things with claws and horns and teeth and tongues and other appendages make up this collection. (M-26)

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVE #1 (£1 from Pablo Ratta von Paz, Badenstr. 256, 8004 Zurich, SWITZERLAND): A music zine that's oriented towards activism and leftist music. Chumbawamba and Instigators get substantial press in this one, along with other groups and local happenings. Jam-packed layouts somewhat influenced by old **MRR** style. Lots of European news including some political stuff on youth culture folks having a hard time in Czechoslovakia. (HL-68r)

★★★★★

ALTERNATIVE PRESS Jan./Feb.-Mar. 1989 ($19.95/12 issues from 2820 Mayfield Rd. #303, Cleveland Heights, OH 44118): This music tabloid has mutated again, with the January and February issues being combined into a single **ROLLING STONE**-sized package. Inside it's the same coverage of up and coming music: Jane's Addiction and Nick Cave make the covers, Jack Rabid is doing a gossip column, and bands inside go from Motorhead to Red Hot Chili Peppers to Eugene Chadbourne. A wide-ranging roundup that now promises to review all demo tapes sent. (O-74t)

★★★★★

THE AMALTHEAN HORN Vol. 3 #4-6 ($15/12 issues from PO Box 5511, Pasadena, CA 91117): A pagan networking and resource journal. They publish a calendar of festivals and events along with short articles. #4 ranges from a vision of a pagan currency to thoughts on pantheism. Lately they seem to be publishing more short fiction and letters, though the longest thing in #6 is an essay on the Book of Shadows. Two-month trial subscription on request. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE AMATEUR COMPUTERIST Vol. 2 #1 ($1 from PO Box 4344, Dearborn, MI 48126): A newsletter that's trying to bring computer knowledge to the shop-floor workers where it can be a tool for empowerment. They print a variety of things: some basic history, a few mixed programming notes, letters from interested parties and even some computer humor all show up in #1 (S-12)

★★★★★

AMBIENT STORMTROOPER REVUE Vol. 1 #4 ($2 from Dumb Artists Collective, 172 Chestnut St. #209, Springfield, MA 01103): Bits of stuff from the tabu edges of our culture: bondage and porno, the last words of Dutch Shultz (presented in full to excite **ILLUMINAUTS!** fans), atomic warfare, strange sex, a terrorist paean to dynamite, oddball collages, and more. They also sent along some small pamphlets on subjects from Bokononism to guerilla war. (S-32)

★★★★★

AMERICAN FORUM Vol. 4 #47-Vol. 5 #10 ($4.95/6 months from 971 Van Duzer St., Staten Island, NY 10304): A collection of reviews and comics that wades around the grubbier side of life. They feature "Twisted Image" and "Homo Patrol" comics. #4 has a marvelous takeoff on the IRS form 1040 — perhaps from Yossarian Universal, which provides a lot of humorous relief here. (S-2)

★★★★★

AMERICAN LIBERTARIAN Vol. 3 #7-10 ($2 from 21715 Park Brook Dr., Katy, TX 77450): Coverage of all manner of Libertarian news. #7 is delightfully surreal, with final LP vote totals, the story of the latest power struggles in the LP, and FBI admissions of spying on the party in the early 70s. #8 looks at the New Alliance Party and the complex infighting going on over ballot access campaigns for 1992. #9 examines the Populist party and other far-right fronts. (T-8t)

★★★★★

AMERICAN MAILER MONTHLY Vol. 1 #1 ($6/yr from American Co-Op Mailer Service, PO Drawer 75129, Cincinnati, OH 45275-0129): It's been a while since I've reviewed any "big mails", but they haven't changed. This is a collection of ads, large and small, for folks who want to make money stuffing envelopes, mailing flyers, or participating in pyramid schemes. Money makes people do pathetic things. (S-16)

★★★★★

AMERICAN RATIONALIST Jan./Feb.-Mar./Apr, 1989 ($1 from PO Box 994, St. Louis, MO 63144): A mix of Bible-bashing and serious articles on whether one can be moral without believing in God (they say yes, of course). The amusing side of religion turns up more often here than the harmful side. The book review section is particularly extensive and useful. (S-16t)

★★★★★

AMERICAN WINDOW CLEANER #14-15 ($6 from 27 Oak Creek Rd., El Sobrante, CA 94803): A trade publication which is fun to read — you'll be amazed at how sophisticated the window cleaning industry has become. #14 reports on a new world record set at a recent convention, gives some hints on writing contracts, and of course discusses the latest in tools and techniques. #15 loosens up a bit, with snappy comebacks to stupid questions and a feature on the windows of Disneyland as well as the usual serious stuff. (S-24t)

★★★★★

AMERICAN WRITER Vol. VII #2 ($20/yr from NWU, 13 Astor Pl. 7th Fl., New York, NY 10003): The publication of the National Writers Union, a group trying to bring the power of organized labor to freelance and book writers. This issue reports on various grievances and struggles, the possibility of affiliation with a larger union, and the success of the tax law revision fight. (S-16t)

★★★★★

ANALYSIS & OUTLOOK Vol. XIX #3 ($78/12 issues from R.W. Bradford & Co., PO Box 1167, Port Townsend, WA 98368): An investment newsletter which concentrates on precious metals, whether as bullion or rare coins. It's full of recommendations on what to buy and what to avoid, though of course there's no guarantee. At that price, I guess we know at least one person making money from the deal. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE ANARCHISTS

Your Aeditor is an anarchist and so are a lot of other folks these days. As a consequence the anarchist press seems to be booming. Here's the shock wave of this explosion:

•**A CAPPELLA** #14-15 (Donation from Malgorzata Tarasiewicz, Sopot, ul. Kosciuszki 5/2, POLAND): Entirely in Polish but with an English outline provided for foreign comrades, this one reports on anarchy under rather more repressive conditions than the rest of us face. Their most basic struggle is for freedom to travel. As they point out, $10 may not be much to you but it's a large donation to them. Send U.S. cash, well-wrapped. #15 includes much information on the struggle against military training as well as radical (for Poland) ideas like feminism and vegetarianism. (A4-20r)

•**ANARCHY** #18 ($1.50 from C.A.L., PO Box 1446, Columbia, MO 65205-1446): I believe this paper is now providing the best overview to be had of the anarchist movement (such as it is) in the U.S. The folks here track the anarchist press, the gatherings, and various debates within the milieu quite fairly, giving space to people with diverse opinions and — just as importantly — publishing on a regular basis. They also bring in new ideas, like critical theory, to liven the debates. Plenty of good contact info. (T-32t)

•**BAD ATTITUDE** #2 (Donation from PO Box 02548, Detroit, MI 48202): A little rag designed to be easily copied and handed out to those who have a bad attitude about most everything connected with the military-industrial-business-education-science complex. These anarchists want to shut down the trash incinerator, stop Operation Rescue, get rid of cruise missiles, and otherwise disrupt life as we know it. Inspirational direct action and partying. (HL-4t)

•**BAYOU LA ROSE** #29 ($5/yr from PO Box 2576, San Diego, CA 92112): A quintessentially working-class anarchist tabloid. Right now the legal struggle to get publisher Arthur Miller's daughter out of a mental hospital and away from abusive grandparents is at the top of their activities list, but it doesn't monopolize their attention. Also here are shipyard Wobbly organizing, anarchist and native peoples networking, and the forgotten anarchist history of San Diego. (T-36)

•**BLACK EYE** #5 ($1.50 *CASH* from 324 E. Ninth St., New York, NY 10009): A youthful anarchist endeavor that seems to be concentrating on current problems rather than rehashing old theories (not that they ignore the theoretical, but they're not transfixed by it either). Stories of successful actions, from hunt sabotage to television protest, rub pages with manifestoes on student life and humorous pokes at the movement. (D-36r)

•**COUNTER INFORMATION** #22 (Donation from p/h CI, 11 Forth St., Edinburgh, EH1, UK): A collection of short news bits from around the world about (mostly violent) resistance to excessive and repressive government. Right now the new Poll Tax is their biggest worry locally, but they range from a nurses' strike in France to demonstrations at the IMF meetings to prison rights in the U.S. (A4-4t)

•**DAILY IMPULSE** Vol. 4 #4 ($1 from PO Box 90312, San Diego, CA 92109): This one is into building links between the anarchist community and traditions and the youth and punk culture of today. They run a mix of basic articles on anarchy past and music present — a discussion of Leninism & fascism in #4 butts up against a long interview with Neighborhood Watch. (S-12r)

•**DRAGONFLY** Vol. 2 #3 (45¢ SASE from 3558 20th St., San Francisco, CA 94110): A celebration of life and possibilities in a more or less anarchistic framework. Automobile resistance, liberatory calendar systems, and new ways of living in harmony with the world are among their concerns. (S-16)

•**ECOMEDIA BULLETIN** #43-49 ($15/26 issues from PO Box 915, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N9): A small but frequent news zine that tries to cover the anarchist movement worldwide. #44 reports a defeat of the local "Operation Rescue" attempt by activists including anarchists. #46 exposes several employees of a security company who have infiltrated the animal rights and anarchist movements. (HL-4t)

•**ENDLESS STRUGGLE** #9 ($1.50 from 6-2869, 1895 Commercial St., Vancouver, BC V5N 4A6, CANADA): An anarchist zine with a very punk feel, from the music coverage to the graphic design. They reprint things from all over the world, putting together a picture of widespread youthful rebellion. Into action and events rather than theory. (S-27r)

•FREEZINE Vol. II #1 (Donation from PO Box 1465, Troy, NY 12180): A wide-open anarchist zine put together by a collective at RPI. This is not dogmatic rehashes of historical theories, but attempts to see the problems of the world in a new light and to seriously ask what we need to *do* to effect change. Especially good in #1 are Radmilla Miletich's "Let Us Touch Sensually", a couple of pieces from Blair Schneider, and John Schumacher's "To Change the Way Things Are." (S-16t)

•GREEN ANARCHIST #20 (£8/10 issues from Box H.34 Cowley Rd., Oxford, OX4 1HZ, UK): A zine of new strategy and tactics for anarchists who are also involved in other movements like the Greens or the punks. They put forth a theory of "Revolution on the periphery" and argue for activism, violent if necessary, in support of this. Also good source of news on demos and happenings in the British Isles. (A4-24t)

•KICK IT OVER #23 ($2 from PO Box 5811, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1P2, CANADA): This is the "Class Issue" of this anarchist tabloid. The writers talk for the most part about real things, like food and jobs, and about the impact of class difference on society. There's also coverage of the Guatemalan student movement and more letters and debates on current movement issues (deep vs. social ecology and militant rage vs. anything else among them). (T-24t)

•MINNEAPOLIS ALTERNATIVE SCENE #7 ($2 from Dan Siskind, 5245 James Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55419): One of the few new breed of anarchist zines that successfully bring in the concerns of the punk community. There's a mix of music coverage and political opinion here. Interviews and live reviews mix with thoughts on scene unity, animal rights, and more. (S-36)

•NEW LIBERTARIAN Vol. V #4 ($1.50 from 1515 W. MacArthur Blvd. #19, Costa Mesa, CA 92626): These folks are anarchist, but anarchist capitalists, which puts them in the minority of the zines reviewed here. NL also maintains strong ties to science fiction fandom, and this issue leads off with a short tribute to Robert Heinlein. Other articles discuss arcane movement politics, libertarians in the media, and (from Robert Anton Wilson) the strange case of Irish politics. (S-9t)

•A NEW WORLD RISING #9 (Donation from Box 33, 77 Ives St., Providence, RI 02906): This paper distributed 100,000 copies last year, making it the most widespread grassroots anarchist project I know of. It seems to grow out of Grateful Dead shows, bringing simple ideas of resistance to lots of young folks who still want to make a difference. Their program is not exactly well-developed, but their energy and dedication is undeniable. (T-8r)

•NO PICNIC Spring 1989 ($8/yr from PO Box 69383 Stn. K, Vancouver, BC V5K 4W6, CANADA): An angry anarchist tabloid that goes in for violently destroying the system, but they're not exclusively captivated by destruction. This issue has a lot of prison support stuff, as well as an excellent article on tacit sexism in the movement. There are also a fair number of international (especially British) contacts and some perspectives on what the world might be like if it were better. (T-28)

•OBDNC Mar. 1989 (Donation from 142 Washington St. #305, Binghamton, NY 13901): A friendly little anarchist tabloid from SUNY Binghamton. This issue features some great graffiti collaged with news of the day, the manifesto of a Yugoslavian socialist group, and some reportage from the Philadelphia anarchist gathering planning meeting. (T-8)

•OXFIN #4 (IRCs from Unit 1, Business Centre, Paradise St., Oxford, UK): These folks sent a pile of stuff but they're not real organized about labeling it. However I gather that FIN stands for Free Information Network, a federation of anarchists and other opposition types, and their newsletter is packed to the gills with info to be spread. Threads of discussion include Green politics, Stonehenge, ecodisaster, squatting, poll taxes, spirituality and paganism, and more. (A4-26r)

•POSSESSED #3 ($1 from PO Box 20545, Seattle, WA 98102): A youthful anarchist paper that depends on poetry and collage as well as news and essays to get their points across. I particularly enjoyed CW's "Terrible Joy", an indictment of the American dream, in this issue; there's also an excellent article on a very authoritarian socialist anti-skinhead demo. (S-24t)

•THE SEDITIONIST #7-8 (75¢ from PO Box 210095, San Francisco, CA 94121-0095): #7 was A single-sheet collection of anarchist news and views. The main editorial in #7 argues that it's time to organize for active self-defense against the rise of fascism, whether in the form of skinheads or that of the government. #8 continues with a strong stance in favor of organizing the working class, "a functional network of streetfighters", and other expressions of direct action — unfortunately it also slams the anti-work folks by way of an essay full of disinformation. (S-6r)

•SLINGSHOT #21-25 (Donation from Jesse McCloud, 700 Eshleman Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720): A radical anarchist paper published on the UC Berkeley campus. Right now things are gearing up for another struggle over People's Park. Meanwhile, they write of the Central American situation, the fate of on-campus recycling efforts, and efforts to stop Operation Rescue. #21 also fills in the background on Food Not Bombs, a group that's had 92 people arrested for giving free food to the hungry. With #25 they've done their last issue for the spring but they'll be back with the fall term and will probably sell you back issues until then. (T-8t & HL-6t)

•SMORSYRA #1 (IRCs from Jens Bjelkesgt 62c, 0652 Oslo 6, NORWAY): Claims to be the only anarchist magazine in Norway, and I don't know of any reason to disbelieve them. All in Norwegian (except, for some reason, the cartoons), but topics include the Palestinian uprising and the continuing sabotage fight against Shell. (T-12)

•THE SPORADICAL #8 ($1 from Libertarian Book Club, 339 Lafayette #202, New York, NY 10012): A collection of rants and posters slapped together without editorial control to give a picture of spontaneous grassroots anarchism. Topics pursued by the various writers and artists include homelessness, elections, demonstrations, and "Spontaneous History". (S-26)

•SRAF BULLETIN #106 ($3/6 issues from PO Box 11966, Salt Lake City, UT 84147): There's still a few signs of life in this open forum for the anarchist movement, but no sustained level of interesting discussion. They do seem to be past their lowest point, though, so perhaps a lively interchange will develop again in the future. Bob Shea valiantly continues to try to keep this group alive, and half a dozen others contribute desultory writings. (D-12r)

•TACTICS OF THE MOVEMENT OF THE LIBERTARIAN LEFT Vol. IV #5-6 ($2 from P.O Box 1748, Long Beach, CA 90801-1748): The somewhat puffed-up periodical of the most radical anarchist wing of the libertarian movement. Though hardcore individualists (and therefore *persona non grata* to most of the anarchist movement), the folks here are basically all right except that their proto-revolutionary rhetoric wears thin at times. We've been told for years that the state is tottering; why doesn't it fall? (S-6t)

•TORCH Vol. 16 #1-3 (50¢ from Box 1288, GPO, New York, NY 10016): The newspaper of the Revolutionary Socialist League, a Trotskyite group which has been displaying increasing sympathy for the anarchist movement, especially as manifested in the recent gatherings. #1 includes Bob McGlynn on Polish dissidents and some more anti-Klan agitating. #2 has more Soviet Bloc news and a look at the Intifada after one year. A Spanish-language section appears in every issue as well. (T-16t)

•VANCOUVER ECOMEDIA #5 (Donation from PO Box 69601, Stn. K, Vancouver, BC, V5K 4W7, CANADA): Another part of the Ecomedia anarchist news network. These folks print about half local news and half stories from the service — #5 looks at the animal rights movement infiltrators and the situation in Spain, as well as local gentrification and Operation Rescue. (T-4t)

★★★★★

ANATHEMA #3 ($2 from Jim Passin, PO Box 585, Chelmsford, MA 01824): The "Reality Issue" of this collection of collage, artistic writings, and oddball typography. The contributors here are thrashing about in the muck of the subconscious, and sometimes they turn up something interesting, like Al Ackerman's tale of the Vienna Sausage suit or James Gray's "Facadomy". This stuff will madden the logical brain but it may entertain the rest of you. (S-30)

★★★★★

ANCIENT GRANDMA SECRETS #1 ($1 from Libby Gilbert, PO Box 11405, Eugene, OR 97440): Libby says it best in her introduction: "This rag is not so much about rock-n-roll as it is a sketch of the pantomime surrounding it." Oh sure, she reviews some music and does some show reviews. But the difference starts there because the reviews are as much about audience reaction as the bands. Also short character studies, poems and drawings work their way in here. (S-14)

★★★★★

ANGLOFILE #5 ($10/6 issues from PO Box 33515, Decatur, GA 30033): A newsletter for fans of the lighter British media. Dr. Who, Monty Python, and James Bond are among the things they cover, along with reviews of new books and music from British pop culture. Lots of stuff crammed in here, including a run down on the BBC season and the first part of an interview with Dalek creator Terry Nation. (S-8t)

★★★★★

ANICHTI POLI #18 (IRCs from Poulopoulou 45, GR-11851, Athens, GREECE): An all-Greek countercultural magazine. #18 includes an interview with members of the Chaos Computer Club, and reviews of things including Psychic TV, as well as much that looks exciting from the graphics. These folks can also put you in touch with Alternative Gallery, an underground press archive which makes photocopies of defunct magazines available for about 8¢ a page. (A4-28)

★★★★★

THE ANIMALS' AGENDA Feb.-Apr. 1989 ($22/10 issues from PO Box 6809, Syracuse, NY 13217): A good source for national and international news about animal rights and related topics. The February issue examines the attitudes of major veterinary groups towards animals. March ranges from Dolphins to Losters to the possibility of birth control for wild animals. (S-60t)

★★★★★

THE ANTI-ARTIST #6 (50¢ from Bob Sheridan, 3146 W. 82nd St. Up, Cleveland, OH 44111): A minicomic detailing the life of a typical underground comics person (or for that matter, zine person): mail, music, reading, getting a bit of work done, staying up far too late, and starting the whole thing over the next day. Well-done and well-drawn. (M-8)

★★★★★

ANTIQUE WEEK Vol. 21 #47 ($22.45/yr from PO Box 90, Knightstown, IN 46148): A "Weekly antique, auction & collectors' newspaper" that has quite a passel of ads but also lots of articles. They range afield as far as genealogy and coin collecting, but remain centered on antiques and how to buy and sell them. (T-48t)

★★★★★

ANVIL 48 ($6/yr from Charlotte Proctor, 8325 7th Ave., S., Birmingham, AL 35206): A science fiction zine, printed in mimeo on traditional Twiltone, that doesn't seem too interested in reaching outside of the fan community. They do print regular articles form a Soviet SF fan, as well as columns from Buck Coulson and the editor and a reasonably active letter column. Nice but unspectacular. (S-34)

★★★★★

APA-5 #187 ($5 from Sheila Wilding, 17645 Via Sereno, Mount Sereno, CA 95030): This amateur press association is centered on comics and related topics but wanders far afield into personal lives and other things in the mailing comments. Various members also put original artworks through for comments and critiques. #187 is a rather skimpy issue, with perhaps more bitching than usual. (S-104)

★★★★★

APA TAROT #38-39 ($2 or so from Sheila Wilding, 17645 Via Sereno, Mount Sereno, CA 95030): You might think Tarot to be a rather limited topic to keep an apa healthy — but you'd be wrong. I'm constantly amazed by the variety of cards members here find to display in their zines, and the level of the discussion of this and related systems. Accessible and friendly esoterica for those willing to participate. (S-87)

★★★★★

APEC NEWS Vol. 9 #3 (Donation from 33 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12210): The newsletter of the Albany Peace & Energy Council, an anti-nuclear group which has been together for ten years now. There's a lot of information packed into this issue, ranging from the nuclear bomb targets in the state to a look at food irradiation to notes on a possible site of buried nuclear waste here. (HL-12)

★★★★★

APPALACHIAN EARTH FIRST! Feb. 1989 (Donation from Ernie Reed, PO Box 309, Nellysford, VA 22958): A bioregional newsletter that is relatively free of the anti-humanism of its national counterpart. This is a revived project, back after a long absence, and the first issue is mostly short blurbs about ongoing actions and struggles and the people to contact. (S-5t)

★★★★★

AQUARIUM ($1.50 from Bomb Shelter Propaganda, PO Box 12268, Seattle, WA 98102): Subtitled "Wide angle landscapes 1/89", this is a collection of computerized art and poetic rants by Mike Miskowski. The theme is mainly that of being trapped in the machine, whether as a consumer of paper or a number being (mis)counted. In short blasts he makes clear the basic insanities of our system of life. (M-24)

★★★★★

ARE #1 (*Trade ONLY* from Jeff Curtis, PO Box 6643, Cleveland, OH 44101): A new minicomic featuring Eddie the Waitress and her cousin Taynya the Jungle Girl. A mix of cheesecake and diners, sure to bring a smile to the face of most funloving folks. Very cinematic art, styled yet with an air of reality. (M-8)

★★★★★

THE ARIZONA ATHEIST Jan.-Feb. 1989 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 36192, Tucson, AZ 85740): A publication of the Tucson Chapter of American Atheists, although their relations with national HQ seem to be a bit strained by their independence. Feisty anarchist Fred Woodworth is helping out here, so the graphic design and level of invective have both increased. Hardheaded uncompromising arguments with the "goddists" prevail. (D-24t)

★★★★★

ARMADILLO KILL ($1 from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): A curious little comic from the editor of **BRAIN DEAD**. The armadillo here is an outlaw type, out of prison to have his revenge on society. Unfortunately things soon turn sour, and in the end he meets his traditional just desserts. Cliched and wonderful. (HL-20)

★★★★★

THE ARMENIAN MIRROR-SPECTATOR Vol. LVI #29 ($40/yr from PO Box 302, Watertown, MA 02172): "The First English Language Armenian Weekly in the U.S.A." They cover not only Armenian-Americans but also the happenings in Armenia and in other expatriate communities. Lots of cultural stuff and not too much political. Earthquake relief is one of the major themes of this issue, of course. (T-16t)

★★★★★

ART BRIGADE #5 ($1 (?) from 1603 Bonham, Amarillo, TX 79102): A tabloid of art and literature. They're not utterly serious about this, reprinting Baboon Dooley plus an article on lost TV episodes (like the Twilight Zone "Attack of the Maytag Repairmen" one). There's also a nice eerie full-page John Bergin comic plus a couple of more serious stories and a page of poetry. Music reviews cover recent demos and garbage from the cut-out bin. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ARTE POSTALE #58 ($4 from Vittore Baroni, Via C. Battisti 339, 55049 Viareggio, ITALY): A mail art zine from one of the linchpins of the network. This issue is subtitled "The B.A.T. Manual" (which stands for "Break Art Taboos") and it discusses some problems that Vittore sees with the development of the network. Most of the other contributors don't seem to have taken him seriously, though. (M-36r)

★★★★★

ART ET DECORATION (Free "in exchange for something equally odd" from Edgar "Bolt" Upright, 104 W. Main St. #4, Carrboro, NC 27510): A collection of collages and altered texts. Edgar does good work, splicing words and phrases together as well as images, and the result is prose that makes your head ache even while it opens up new vistas. A nice parallelism of picture and writing. (D-28)

★★★★★

ARTPAPER Vol. 8 #6-8 ($18/yr from 119 N. 4th St., Minneapolis, MN 55401): A newspaper focusing on the art scene in the Twin Cities, though they are wide-ranging in both locale and topic. #6 for example reports on Pirate Radio and the aesthetics of the (literal) underground, as well as providing the usual calendar and gallery news. #7 is the "Comics" issue, with notes on Situationism, distorted figures, the new Batman, and yours truly on small press comics censorship. #8 seems a bit muddled, ranging from pro wrestling to fireworks along with articles about recognizable arts like sculpture and music. (T-32t)

★★★★★

ARTPOLICE March 1989 ($2.50 from 3131 1st Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): Wild little psycho-symbolic artworks with words and thoughts attached. They range from odd combinations of the crucifixion and the Tree of Life to a tail of thorns to bodies dissolving before they can get eaten by the sharks. (S-12)

★★★★★

ARTS AND BUSINESS QUARTERLY Vol. 1 #6 (Donation from Prince George's Arts Council, 6611 Kenilworth Ave. #215, Riverdale, MD 20737): These people appear to have been very successful in raising money to promote the arts in their area. Each issue contains a mix of fundraising news and short notes on new things to be seen. Might be an interesting model for other groups looking for artistic legitimacy. (S-6t)

★★★★★

ARTSFOCUS Vol. III #5 ($10/yr from PO Box 9994, Seattle, WA 98109): Despite the subtitle of "Seattle's Performing Arts Magazine", this is relatively unpretentious. There are reviews of current shows, plugs for upcoming events (along with the inevitable and useful calendar) and news from behind the scenes. The centerfold focuses on the sculpture of Louise Bourgeois. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ART ZOO #2 ($1 from Shane Paul, PO Box 14450, Phoenix, AZ 85063): Another issue of the zine devoted to immortalizing Phoenix's most determined underground artist. This time around Shane actually prints works from a few other people, though the majority of pages here still document his own run-ins with society. Since he tends to deal in images like dead dogs and crucified babies, he has plenty of irate public reaction to report on. (HL-41)

★★★★★

AS IS #22 ($1 *cash* from PO Box 60254, Oklahoma City, OK 73146): A mix of music and other stuff, like the letter from a runaway (they offer to publicize incidents of domestic violence). There are short interviews with a lot of people I've never heard of who I take to be involved in the local scene; their favorite question is one about the rights of homosexual vegetables. Also comics, reviews, artwork, and (unfortunately) very light copying. (S-18r)

★★★★★

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED ($1 from 42-270 Lima Hall Rd., Bermuda Dunes, CA 92201-8152): A nifty little fanzine that avoids looking the same as every other music zine. Of course, part of what Rich did to get this affect was to be detained by the Secret Service; the story continues in this issue. There's also much Dickies stuff, including a longish interview with Leonard Graves Phillips, and some Haunted Garage coverage. (S-18)

★★★★★

ASYLUM Vol. 4 #4 ($10/yr from Greg Boyd, PO Box 3307, Greensboro, NC 27402): A quarterly of experimental prose and poetry, leavened with enough traditional literature to hold the attention and provide a grounding for the whole. T.L. Toma paints an affecting picture of Nicaragua under "El Embargo", while Kostelanetz strings together a nightmare of cliches and aphorisms in "A Universe of Sentences II". Depths worthy of plumbing lurk in the poems and stories here. (D_40t)

★★★★★

THE ATROCITY Vol. 13 #2-4 ($8/12 issues from Hank Roll, 2419 Greensburg Pike, Pittsburgh, PA 15221): Nonsense and humor from the MENSA "Absurd Special Interest Group". Every issue brings a medley of office humor, puns, button ideas, unlikely media clippings, silly drawings, and letters from the decidedly wedged membership of this organization. (S-28r)

★★★★★

AWARE OF MY TONGUE #2 ($1.50 from PO Box 20789, Louisville, KY 40220): A rather whiney music zine (then again, you might whine too if you were stuck in Louisville) that's also deeply sexist. On the other hand, they do fun rowdy interviews with folks like the Volcano Suns and Didjits, and make fun of some of the usual poseurs. Lots of record reviews too. (S-34)

★★★★★

BABBLE #5 ($2 (?) from Mr. Bones, 660 Queen St. W., Toronto, ONT M6J 1E5, CANADA): A collection of obscure poetry, cut-up texts, collages, and other artistic things. There does seem to be a deeper purpose here, an attempt to show the absurdities of the world and the liberatory powers of creativity. The whole can be enjoyed on many levels, from surface gawking to deep consideration. Spiffy fluorescent cover too. (D-56)

★★★★★

BABEL #12-13 ($1 from Glenn Wilkins, 605 13th, Knoxville, TN 37916): More xerographic art and experimentation from Glenn and cronies Russell

Williams, Eric Jantz, and William Douglas. They try out new textures and types of paper (one sheet in #13 is on a chopped up newspaper page) and originals ranging from lace to photographs to drawings. An exploration of the range of the medium that continues to be interesting. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE BABY CONNECTION NEWS JOURNAL Vol. 4 #1-3 ($18/yr from PO Box 13320, San Antonio, TX 78213-3320): A tabloid for new parents, parents-to-be, and others in the baby business. The emphasis is on early bonding and infant stimulation, but they aren't trying to make superbabies, just well-adjusted and happy families. Other topics rangs from labor stories to activities for slightly older kids (finger-painting with instant pudding, for example). Lots of local stuff but probably of interest to fresh parents outside the area as well. (T-8t)

★★★★★

BACK BRAIN RECLUSE #12 ($4 from Chris Reed, 16 Somersall Lane, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, S40 3LA, ENGLAND): A really fine journal of original short science fiction. Each one serves up so many tasty and innovative stories it's hard to know where to begin: but in #12 try Neil Henderson's "Lift", "Enthousiasmos" by Matthew Dickens, or Don Webb's "Hocus". 11 stories in all, and not a clunker in the lot. (A5-55r)

★★★★★

BACKLASH Mar.-Apr. 1989 ($1 (?) from 4128 Fremont Ave. N., Seattle, WA 98103): Local music coverage with a few national reviews thrown in. They range pretty widely, from the rap of Sir Mix-A-Lot to the thrashers The Accused to swing music from the Swinging Swamis. Good solid stories that don't read like warmed-over publicity pieces, nice photos, and a few comics to round out the package. (T-12t)

★★★★★

BACKSTREETS #28 ($3 from PO Box 51225, Seattle, WA 98115-1225): One of the few actual *fanzines* — that is, zines devoted to one musician — we've ever reviewed. This one, of course, is devoted to Bruce Springsteen and is every bit as positive about the Boss as you might expect. Stories cover all sorts of folks connected with Bruce, new releases are assiduously tracked, and the fans chime in with their ideal set lists. (S-34t)

★★★★★

BACK TO PAGAN #1 ($1 from Pagan Kennedy, 14 Farrington Ave., Allston, MA 02134): A new entry from someone who is closer to being just plain folks, in a mutant sort of way, than many of us. Oh sure, Pagan has played in a band and just got back from touring the South and riding plastic elephants, and she reads all sorts of bizarre stuff, but basically she's pretty normal (and, incidentally, had this nickname long before dancing naked in the moonlight was popular). Friendly and personal, with accounts of life, photos and cartoons. (S-14)

★★★★★

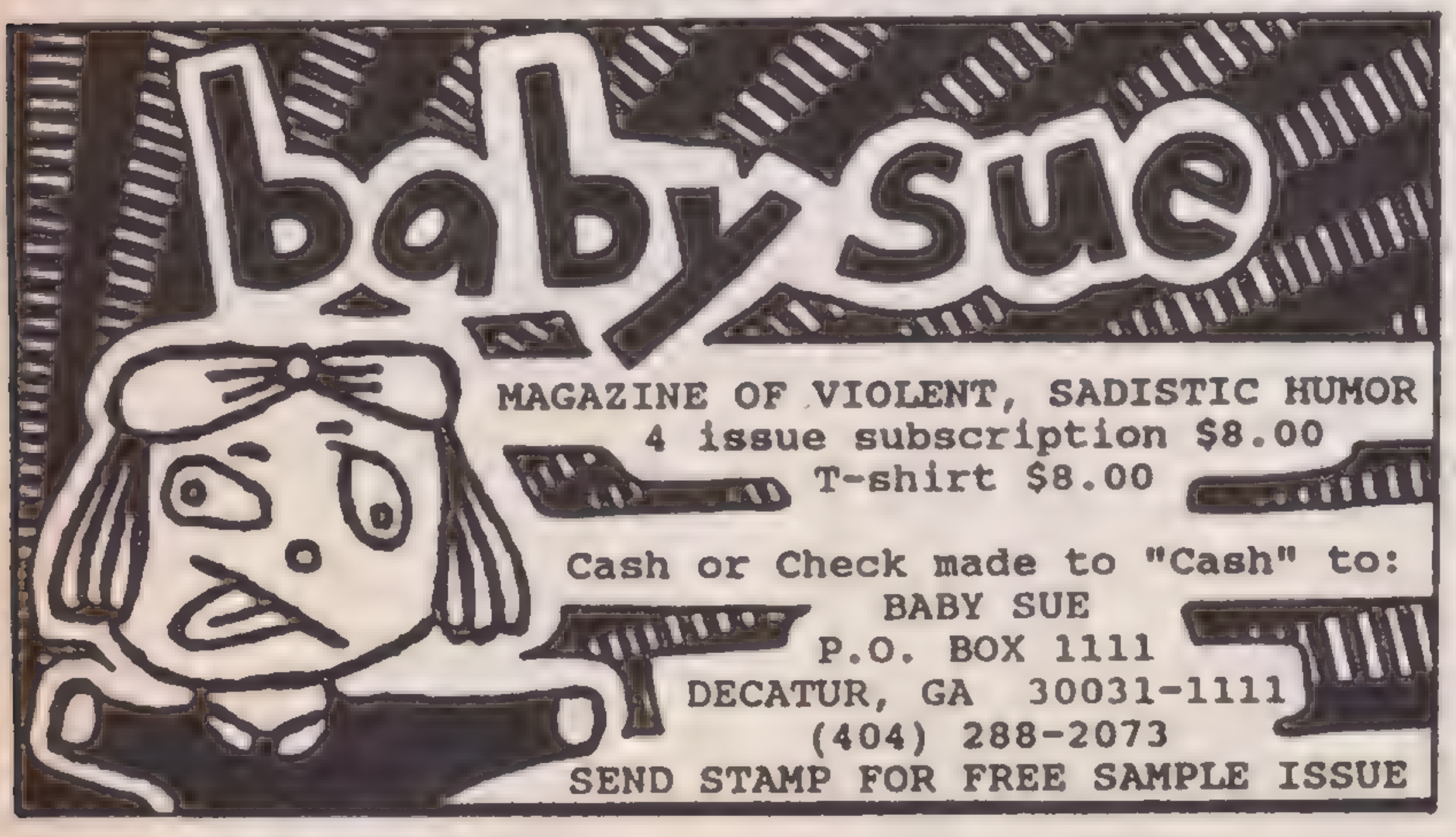
BAD TOAD #1 (Free from PO Box 6431, Champaign, IL 61826-6431): They say that's a postpaid price for this punk music zine; I hope they're planning to lose their shirts (for those of you with compassion, it cost them 45¢ just to mail). The first issue doesn't have a whole lot to it: Bludgeoned Nun and Majority of One interviews, record reviews, and a mildly anti-frat rant. (D-36)

★★★★★

THE BAG #24-26 (SASE & a personal note from 28313 58th Ave., PawPaw, MI 49079): A personal meander through worlds of music and what-not. The editor writes about what he pleases, often without caring whether it will enlighten or just confuse the reader. Somehow, though, the whole becomes a fun little self-contained universe for the duration of its four pages. #25 takes a sidewise look at the conventions of zinedom. (S-4)

★★★★★

BALLOT ACCESS NEWS Vol. 4 #10 ($6/yr from Coalition for Free and Open Elections, 3201 Baker St., San Francisco, CA 94123): A careful tracking of the requirements to run candidates in elections across the country. This is of interest to third parties of all stripes, from Libertarians to Greens to Socialists. Highlights changes in the law and provides a ready source of reference. (S-8t)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BANANA MAIL #4 (IRCs from Bruno Pommey, 36 Residence Jean Mace, 28300 Mainvilliers, FRANCE): An international mail-art mini that announces half a dozen shows from around the world, with English descriptions and deadlines. Bruno also publishes **LA BANANE**, which covers the French music, radio and art underground scene, though all in French. (M-8)

★★★★★

BARR WARS #1 ($5 from Chris Dunn, 5848 N. Whipple St., Chicago, IL 60659): A comics collaboration, involving a dozen artists having their mostly centauroid characters play tricks on, attack, make passes at, and otherwise interact with each other. This originated in the pages of an artists' apa, but has now spread much more widely. Fun stuff, replete with in-jokes — which Chris fortunately explains as best he can. And the art is pretty good too. (S-38)

★★★★★

BATTLE CRY SOUNDING #65 (Donation from ACMTC, PO Box 161212, Sacramento, CA 95816): That stands for Aggressive Christianity Missions Training Corps, an outfit organized along military lines (though forswearing firearms) to serve as the army of the lord. They publish a really tight-assed newspaper, condemning alcohol, promiscuity, drugs, swearing, gambling, dirt, television and who knows what else. A mix of Bible verses and apocalyptic fervor. (T-24t)

★★★★★

BEATNIK FLYER (SASE from Randolph S. Moser, 13 Off Wester Point Rd., ,York, ME 03909): A real downer collection of stories, poems, and collage. There's a distinct fascination with death here, expressed in short vignettes designed to evoke feeling rather than closure. There's also a post-SubGenius critique of the underground of mutants here that suggests once again we're barking up the wrong organizations. (S-14)

★★★★★

BEFORE TELEVISION #4 ($25/yr from 22 Thayer St., Boston, MA 02115): An arty and bright tabloid that's lost a bit of weight since its last issue. There's still a soundpage here (red vinyl rap from the JC Team), as well as a batch of unusual photography and a few bits of text and thought. Hopefully they're just catching their breath for more. (O-20t)

★★★★★

BEHIND THE WALLS March 1989 (Donation from P.A.N.A.L., c/o 5 Star, PO Box 4167, Halfmoon, NY 12065): A newsletter of the Prisoners Anarchist Network At Large, a support group for those in prison and those outside. They intend to concentrate on exposing and fighting cases of "prison abuse", starting with a description of The Hole at Tehachapi prison out in California. They also publish short personal ads from prisoners seeking correspondence. (S-7)

★★★★★

BEN IS DEAD #3 ($1 & 2 stamps from PO Box 3166, Hollywood, CA 90028): A really well-done music zine that's free locally and looks like it could do a lot to build up the non-metal club scene in the LA area. #3 has probably the best skinhead article I've seen yet (interviewing both racist and non-racist skins), lots of show coverage, and a horror story about one local club's security. (S-24t)

★★★★★

THE BETTY PAGES #3 ($5 from Black Cat Books, 88 Lexington Ave. #9C, New York, NY 10016): A photo-filled digest dedicated "to the arts of tease in American Popular Culture". In case you're slow, that means they focus on pin-up photography, especially on Betty Page, who sold who knows how many thousands of shots working for the famous (or notorious, depending on your point of view) Irving Klaw. #3 features an article on the real-life Betty, plus photographer Bunny Yeager and artist Frank Frazetta. (D-68t)

★★★★★

BEYOND #13 ($5 from Other Worlds Books, PO Box 1124, Fair Lawn, NJ 07410): Science fiction that is for the most part pretty competent, without the clunkers one often finds in the smaller zines. About the only fault here is excessive cuteness in some tales. But Pam Parsons' "Interlock" has a nice alien flavor along with a trendy ecological theme, and Colleen Drippe manages a tense adventure story in "The Faces of Empire". Lots more here, with almost a dozen stories plus poetry and art. (S-52)

★★★★★

BIBLICAL ECONOMICS TODAY Vol. XII #2-3 (On Request from Institute for Christian Economics, PO Box 8000, Tyler, TX 75711): A newsletter of covenental theology directed towards business. In #2, for example, editor Gary North explores the secret of successful entrepreneurship and argues that the franchise system resembles God's covenant with man. (S-4t)

★★★★★

BIZAR SEASON (50¢ (?) from PO Box 11589, Detroit, MI 48211): A collection of poetry, graffiti and short prose snippets put together in a rather anarchic fashion. This isn't a litmag so much as a repository of ideas

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waiting to happen, about love and lawlessness and having a good time. Elliptically inspirational. (S-8)

★★★★★

BLACK SWAN REVIEW #1-2 ($5 from 1037 Monroe Ave., Elizabeth, NJ 07201): A litmag that's heavy on poetry and dark brooding art, but publishes a fair shake of short stories as well. They're looking to be out of the molds and so the feel is sort of loose yet; no real style has gelled beyond a desire on the part of the writers to take some risks. The bold typeface helps lend an air of seriousness and foreboding to the whole. Good work in #2 from Susan Scutti, Joe Salerno and Nico Vassilakis, among many others.

★★★★★

BLECCH KISS #5 (50 ¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520): Another of the hard-to-comprehend comic products of DCC. Doug's work sort of resembles Moorcock's Jerry Cornelius stories; there's a great deal of Significance, but often the reader doesn't know why (a technique I appreciate, by the way). This time...necrophiliac zombies, I think. (D-4)

★★★★★

BLIND #4 (50 ¢ (?) from Edward Henry, 45-050 Ash St., Indio, CA 92201-3727): A mishmash of SubGenial and related stuff — this issue the Warren Commission, Jack Ruby and Lee Harvey Oswald make brief appearances. There's also giant Dobbsheads and a page with a personalized message to the reader. Screwball stickers thrown in at no extra cost. (S-7)

★★★★★

THE BLIND ARMADILLO #11 ($2 from Natalie Kerr, PO Box 272, Redlands, CA 92373): Slightly delayed due to the move to Californium, but worth waiting for. Most of this one is music reviews, mostly positive, since Natalie seems to have collected a lot of good music the past 6 months. There's also an October Rain interview, and some fanzine and tape reviews. (S-24)

★★★★★

BLUE LIGHTS #20/21 ($6/2 issues from Christine Menefee, 600 Water St. SW #8-14, Washington, DC 20024): A newsletter for people who want to revive the Starman television series that's growing at an amazing rate. There are tons of things in here: notes on the campaign to bring back the show, trivia from the original episodes, convention reports, snippets of shooting scripts, and much more. A dedicated and hard-working group that seems to be having a lot of fun in their struggle. (S-46)

★★★★★

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BLUEPRINT FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE Vol. XLII #6-7 (Donation from Loyola IHR, Loyola University, Box 12, New Orleans, LA 70118): A publication of essays on social justice and related topics. #6 looks at the consequences of American foreign aid, and finds them not so good. #7 looks at the treatment of labor unions over the last three decades, and comes to more gloomy conclusions, though with a ray of hope for community support. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE BODY POSITIVE Vol. 2 #1 ($15/yr from 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011): A support group for people who have tested as HIV-positive but not necessarily progressed to fullblown AIDS. They offer firsthand accounts of taking the test and starting treatment, and provide medical news (both accepted and fringe) and notes on community services as well. (S-20r)

★★★★★

BOLD AS LOVE ($1 from Randy Moore, Earth Studio, Rte. 3 Box 133, Perryville, MO 63775): Bizarre portraiture by Moore, who's developing quite a distinct comic style. This mini features many excellent examples of his work, in intricate geometric detail and harsh edges, full of cosmic symbolism that is at times quite puzzling. A curious portfolio. (M-16)

★★★★★

BOLD PRINT ("Donations desperately needed" from Kyle Hogg, 2211 Stuart Ave., Richmond, VA 23220): An underground/marginal litmag with a mix of poetry and short writing from dozens of people. This issue is the biggest yet, including a bonus section, "Lightning Flashes and Other Electrical Impulses", which features short bits from Kyle rather reminiscent of Richard Kostelanetz's "Epiphanies" series. There's too many contributors to list, but exceptional works come from Don Webb, M. Kettner, Paul Weinman, Patrick McKinnon, and many others. There's a cool friendly feeling to it all.(S-22)

★★★★★

BONE CHILLING TALES #1 ($4 (?) from Lil' Demon Press, 5680 Tracy Dr., Mableton, GA 30059): Randy Chandler has assembled a no-frills anthology of some of the best horror fiction the small press has to offer. Among the contributors are Edward Lodi, Don Webb, Janet Fox, William Rasmussen and t. Winter-Damon; all names to conjure with. Lodi's "Come Lie With Me" and David Starkey's "Little Boys" have my vote as the shudderiest stories here, but it's a close call. (S-72)

★★★★★

BONE DANCE #4 ($1 from Scott Sendra, 630 Stoddard, East Lansing, MI 48823): I suspect in the future someone will look back through the archives and label this "The Grumpy Issue" of this mostly college-oriented music mag. There are the expected interviews — Big Stick, Sonic Youth — but the nastiness really doesn't surface until the letters and reviews. There records get trashed and writers look stupid, all in the name of having fun. Nice new look though. (S-20t)

★★★★★

BORDER/LINES #14 ($16/4 issues from 183 Bathurst St. #301, Toronto, ONT M5T 2R7, CANADA): An impressive large-format "interdisciplinary magazine about art, culture and social movement." The sheer breadth of the topics here is impressive: political theater in Bengal, the new wave of union periodicals, the dismal treatment of black Australians and the uses of Canadian culture are all covered in this issue. The writing is detailed and careful but still lively, and the graphics show much attention as well. They also review books from other small presses. I was favorably impressed. (O-43t)

★★★★★

BOSTON ROCK #94-95 ($1.50 from T. Lozaw, PO Box 371, New Town Branch, Boston, MA 02258): A slice of new music that includes plenty of live reviews and pro-looking layout and photos. Feature stories range from Los Lobos to Sonic Youth to Game Theory to Die Kruezen; basically anyone you can expect to find on the club circuit. #94 includes top ten lists from 1988. Mekons, Alien Sex Fiend, and Violent Femmes are among the groups in #95. (T-18t)

★★★★★

BRAIN DEAD #10 ($2 from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): Another nice collection of maddened art, along with more prose pieces than usual. Contents range from poetry by Paul Weinman to new music reviews by Carol Schutzbank, along with short stories by the editor and Greg Evason. Barbara Bush, dinosaur tyranny, and the nasty habits of cops are a few of the more visual topics. (HL-50r)

★★★★★

BRAIN VOMIT #1 ($2 from Rex Butters, 1232 Treat Ave. #A, San Francisco, CA 94110): A mix of collage, poetry, and oblique text pieces. Plenty of images of the degradation of modern society here, from commodity culture to pig-fucking politicians to Christ juxtaposed with the new intolerance. Color photocopy cover introduces it all. (S-34)

★★★★★

BREAKTHROUGH Vol. XII #1 ($10/4 issues from John Brown Book Club, PO Box 14422, San Francisco, CA 94114): A serious revolutionary journal that's maintained the rage of the 60s well into the 80s. They're into resistance on many fronts: PISD (People with Immune Systems Disorders), women revolutionaries in the Phillipines, Mexican politics, the situation in Namibia, the realities of racism in LA, and more. A good source for news of political prisoners and sedition trials in this country. (S-44t)

★★★★★

BRICK #1 (SASE from 1247 Graham Ave. #H-8, Florence, AL 35630): A new newsletter for "Direct Action in Action". The introductory issue promises future discussion of civil disobedience vs. direct action, suggests a few deserving targets, and gives some of the details on the case of Michael Stotts. (L-1)

★★★★★

BRIMSTONE Vol. 1 #1 ($18/4 issues from 231 Kennedy Dr. #130, Malden, MA 02148): A new quarterly journal of "the Ancient Brotherhood of Satan". They preach a morality lifted from folks like LaVey and Redbeard (a big chunk of **MIGHT IS RIGHT** is reprinted in the first issue). Other features include an invocation ritual and a look at some seedy popes. Not excessively impressive. (S-16)

★★★★★

BUF-O Vol. 4 #7-Vol. 5 #1 (*Trade ONLY* from Klaus D. Haisch, 1729 E. Tabor St., Indianapolis, IN 46203): A magazine for lovers of popular culture. In #7, Klaus continues his analysis of classic Twilight Zone episodes, reprints another cheesy baseball card, and delves into comics lore with the help of some readers. #1 has James Dean, the new Swamp Thing, and a checklist of the Green Hornet TV series. (S-15)

★★★★★

THE BUG #1-2 (IRCs from Box Bug, 46 Denbigh St., London SW1, ENGLAND): A single-sheet of aphorisms and short essays, which claims as its stock in trade "paradox, wisdom, hypocrisy, good-naturedness". There's a rather lefty political slant and a fair amount of tongue-in-cheek editorializing. Unconnected little amusing bits ideal for toilet reading. (A4-2t)

★★★★★

THE BURNING BUSH #10 ($1 from Jason Bauman, Route #1 Hwy. 23, Mineral Point, WI 53565): "A bi-monthly magazine that covers the best in Christian alternative rock including new-wave, punk, and metal." They concentrate mostly on reviews, although there are a few opinion columns preaching the word and some letters as well. Wide coverage of new groups as well as old standbys like Rez. (D-19r)

★★★★★

BUY ELEVEN ($1 & a stamp from John Borkowski, 21 Baldwin St., West Haven, CT 06516): A mini-collection of stark and shadowy art. John draws evocative pictures with a terrifying air to them, bits of Lovecraftian horror combined with more modern psychoses. Well-done stuff. (M-16)

★★★★★

BUZZ #39-41 ($1 from PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203): All the local music gossip plus more record reviews than you usually find in a giveaway zine. They've also been around long enough to get feature articles: Sonic Youth's last album and the staff at Pathfinder records both feature in #39. Alien Sex Fiend and Gregory's Funhouse make the pages of #40. (S-40t)

★★★★★

BVI-CENTRAL 8:2-8:3 ($1 from J. LeRoy, PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826-4843): More fiction and opinion from the founder of the BVI network. In #2 he goes on about blame and responsibility as they are conceptualized in American society. #3 looks at drugs and other impediments to our civil liberties. A mix of essays, fiction, playlets and just plain ranting, all designed to wake some of the sheep up. (D-20t)

★★★★★

BVI-CENTRAL PRESENTS: J. LEROY'S PROGRESS, Part 5 ($1 from J. LeRoy, PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826-4843): More of J.'s autobiography, this time a slice from Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1986. Things were not perfect then and there; in particular, his university was really being stupid. However, he also met his future partner Ann Miner, so I suppose it balanced out a bit. Fun and personal writing. (D-20t)

★★★★★

BVI-GREAT LAKES #4-5 ($1 from Ann LeRoy, PO Box 4843, East Lansing, MI 48826-4843): Really quite personal writing from Ann, combined with more of her careful collages. These two issues go together to tell the story of a beery weekend in which she tried to explore the concept of an open relationship, without (apaprently) a whole lot of luck. A pretty raw learning experience from the sound of it. (S-12t)

★★★★★

BURNING TODDLERS #5

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BVI-PACIFICA JOURNAL Vol. II #3 ($2.50 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 45792, Seattle, WA 98145-0792): A collection of esoterica and essays on a wide variety of rather marginal subjects. These range from the possibility of electrochemically growing structures from seawater to a critique of the New Age to a review about a Jewish German spy. Intriguing and ranging from the occult to the mostly silly (as in the Fike/Behaviour correspondence here). This issue also features some explanations from the founder of the BVI network. (D-45r)

★★★★★

BVI-PACIFICA NEWSLETTER Vol. IV #3 ($2.50 from Yael Dragwyla, PO Box 45792, Seattle, WA 98145-0792): The more humorous counterpart of the above zine, featuring short works by the likes of Al Ackerman and Willie Smith, contests for bad or strange writing, and metaphysical investigations by some of the oddball characters in BVI-land. Light but fun. (D-44r)

★★★★★

CAAC NEWS Winter 1989 (On Request from PO Box 7454, Olympia, WA 98507): The newsletter of the Central America Action Committee, a group seeking to publicize events in places like El Salvador and Nicaragua from a point of view that differs substantially from that of the US government. This issue has firsthand reportage from El Salvador and thoughts on outreach and lobbying strategy. They're also one of the few places still reporting on developments in the Christic Institute lawsuit. (S-10t)

★★★★★

CAFFIENE ADDICTION #1 ($2 from Scott Williams, Liquid Caffiene, 1326 Curtis Ave., Pt. Pleasant, NJ 08742): Comics with a taste for the bizarre and disgusting (not to mention for coffee). In this issue we meet a wife-killer who starts hallucinating dead Egyptians, a new superhero (Mr. Coffee), and a boy who gets pissed off after a baseball game and goes wild with his bat. A bit sick in places, actually. (D-19)

★★★★★

CALIFORNIA NORML REPORTS Vol. 13 #1 ($25/2 yrs from 2215-R Market St. #278, San Francisco, CA 94114): That price includes trial membership in NORML, the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws. This is mostly news on the legal assaults on marijuana smokers, together with a few related articles — like the advice on passing urine tests in this issue. Not as strident as you would expect. (S-5t)

★★★★★

CANADADAPA 3 (Contact Colin Hinz, 349 West St. North #3, orillia, ONT L3V 5E1, CANADA): A relatively new amateur press association for Dadaists and others of their ilk. So far people have contributed rubber-stampings, hectograph prints and of course the ever-popular xerography as well as hand-drawn items. A variegated bunch of art that hasn't yet developed much interchange — will it ever? (S-21)

★★★★★

CANCER #003 ($1 & 45¢ postage from Fantaco Enterprises, 21 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12210-1391): A collection of collages, dreadful poetry, and odd stories that poke fun at the genre stereotypes. Much of this seems to be in-jokes, but a few bits are funny enough (or gory enough) for anyone. (S-20)

★★★★★

CANNIBAL EYES #1 ($2.85 from Larry Getlen, 1119 E. 58th St., Brooklyn, NY 11234): Certainly the cleanest looking metal zine I've seen in a long time. Larry and crew start off with a wide range of music: Anthrax, Liege Lord, MOD, Biohazard, Nuclear Assault, and more. There are some tough questions about lyrics in the interviews, which is both nice and unusual. Good layout, good photos, decent reviews. An impressive first time effort. (S-35t)

★★★★★

CAN WE NEWSLETTER (Donation from PO Box 2152, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814): The information broadside of Citizens Against Nuclear Weapons and Extermination. They publish basic news about nukes in Idaho and around the country, from the Hanford clean-up to the DOE push for food irradiation. Sources are cited for further self-education. (L-2)

★★★★★

THE CAPITAL DISTRICT HUMANIST SOCIETY MONTHLY Vol. 1 #6 ($12/yr from PO Box 2148, Scotia, NY 12302): A small freethought publication with a focus on local meetings and events. #6 also has a couple of articles on the environment and why humanists are interested in cleaning it up. Probably of local interest only. (S-12)

★★★★★

CAPTAIN OPTIMIST #1-4 ($5/4 issues from Allen Freeman, 157 Northwood Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601-1477): A small-press comic that mimics the format of the "real" comics, with pin-ups and a letter column and so on — and makes it work. T.M. Maple plots the story line, a strange thing involving the power of positive thinking and lots of fish, and Allen and a few others put together the slick art. A continuing plot, characters, lots of laughs...what more could you want? (D-32)

★★★★★

CARIBBEAN NEWSLETTER Vol. 9 #1 ($10/yr from Friends for Jamaica, PO Box 20392, Cathedral Finance Stn., New York, NY 10025): News from all over the Caribbean, though the continuing Grenada 17 trial (and associated violations of human rights) continue to hold their attention. Jamaican politics also come in for close examination, with briefer reports on other nations in the area. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE CARING CONNECTION Vol. 5 #2-4 ($2 from Phyllis A. Burns, 3060 E. Bridge St. #342, Brighton, CO 80601): A newsletter for caregivers — those faced with helping a friend or family member cope with a handicap of some sort. They provide news on recent social and medical advances, advice on getting along, and a space to express thoughts and feelings on the subject. (S-8)

★★★★★

CAST-A-WAYS (Trade from Bonforth Collective, 1004 Danforth Ave., Toronto, ONT M4J 1M2, CANADA): A collection of photocopy art postcards taped together into a long scroll. The work is dense with thick black lines, portraying stylized people in incomprehensible actions. My favorite is the guy in the dark room staring out at a dress on a hanger. (M-7)

★★★★★

CATHEDRAL OF INSANITY #5 ($2 from Julie Luce, 1216 W. Ivesbrook, Lancaster, NY 93534): This issue is composed of excerpts from writings of relatively well-known people: Edgar Allen Poe, John Lennon, Kurt Vonnegut and Arthur Janov are among those represented. The zine explores in a literary way issues of insanity, humanity and the reasons for living. Thought-provoking stuff. Hand-bound with yarn. (D-16)

★★★★★

CAVEAT EMPTOR #17 ($4 from Cross-Country Communications, PO Box 4533, Metuchen, NJ 08840): A magazine of UFOs and related topics. #17 features Jim Moseley on the Gulf Breeze sightings, a look at historical predecessors for the MJ-12 documents, and an interview with Brad Steiger. If you don't know the field, trust me, these are all big news at the moment. Well-written and professionally executed. (S-32t)

★★★★★

CEHSOIKOE #7 (75¢ from John Porcellino, 1954 Brookside Ln., Hoffman Estates, IL 60194): Most of this arsenal of creativity is in the form of short and elusive poetry this time around, with contributions from Oberc, Phillips, Weinman, Weiss and other relatively well-known names. There's also harsh stark xerographic art, a few short stories, and even a comic or two. Nothing here slaps you in the face with meaning; it all demands work from the reader. (D-24r)

★★★★★

CELTIC FRINGE Vol. III #4-5 ($10/6 issues from 6146 W. Giddings St., Chicago, IL 60630): News and culture from the various Celtic lands surrounding Britain. #4 takes a look at the current political situation in Northern Ireland, talks about the Virago Goddess, and rounds up the latest in Celtic music for review. An interview with music producer Ian Green leads off #5, followed by a review of a new book about Nora Joyce and various other snippets of news. (S-10)

★★★★★

CFRA BULLETIN #75-76 ($1 (?) from Bob Kirlin, E. 7609 Marietta, Spokane, WA 99212): That stands for "College Football Researchers Association", and this is a place for people fascinated with the statistics and history of that sport. #75 being the first post-season issue, most of it is devoted to figuring out who the top teams and players were for the '88 season, using various arcane formulas. (S-20)

★★★★★

CHAIRS MISSING #4 ($2 from Scott Munroe, PO Box 375, Fairfield, CT 06430): A no-frills music zine with a lot of words and few but decent pictures. The interview lineup: Ut, fIREHOSE, Live Skull and Pussy Galore. The tour diary: Government Issue. The extras: A ton of music reviews (with enough historical perspective to be intelligent), Baboon Dooley, 1979 nostalgia, "Kelvin and Snobbes". (S-44r)

★★★★★

CHAKRA #3 ($1 [no checks] from Liz Camps, PO Box 8551, FDR Stn., New York, NY 10022): A mix of singing poems and stories with a point make up this literary tabloid. I really liked B.Z. Niditch's playlet "Two Chairs" and d steven conkle's wonderfully evocative "Acid Sutra" — it did indeed bring back memories. Michael Hathatway's poetry and R. Podolefsky's art also stand out. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE CHARM OF VICE ($1.75 from Superflux Pubs, 1240 21st St., Hermosa Beach, CA 90254): A collection of graphics and cryptic words from artists Raymond Pettibon and Nelson Tarpenny. Pettibon has a well-honed style, all harsh edges for a nasty world full of half-naked people scheming to do one another in. I can't be so positive about Tarpenny, who may still be in grade school, judging by the talent displayed. An underground cult item without a lot of mainstream appeal. (D-24)

★★★★★

CHASING RAINBOWS #1 (IRCs (?) from Jon Angus, 22 (1F1) Lutton Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9PE, UK): A small collection of essays and thoughts from people struggling to understand the human condition. This is not polished philosophizing but rather simple thought about what we are and why we have so much trouble getting along with one another. Very human and thoughful. (M-24r)

★★★★★

CHEAP THRILLS #5 (50¢ from David Lee Ingersoll, PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402): Another somewhat gruesome minicomic from the prolific pen and sick mind of David Ingersoll. This one introduces a demon who works incognito on earth rather than down in hell, because it's more fun torturing the live ones. Cute but disgusting ending. (M-12)

★★★★★

CHEMICAL CASTRATION #5 ($1 from Ben Gilbert, 40 Chase St., Newton, MA 02159): The centerpiece of this music zine is an extensive interview with the racist band Terre Blanche, who are reasonably articulate even if (many would argue) misguided. On the lighter side, there's Duh Family comics, plus some short record reviews. An article on left-hand spiritual paths fills out the package. (HL-16r)

★★★★★

CHEMICAL WARFARE #3 ($3 from Mick, 28 Belleville Drive, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 4HA, ENGLAND): A packed pile of music coverage, not just from Britain: Germany, Poland, Yugoslavia, Greece, the US, Canada...all have bands represented. The lineup seems to be mostly hardcore,with Instigators, Verbal Assault, and Napalm Death just a few of the folks here. There's also scene reports, small ads, a long list of English zines and distributors, and much more. Sort of an MR&R feel here, in a well-executed package. (A5-60r)

★★★★★

CHIAPA 29 ($3 from Maurice Forrester, PO Box 427, Syracuse, NY 13210): An amateur press association for those interested in comics, from the point of view of wanting to produce them. It's a mix of artwork, scripts, and comments, small but growing, and rather friendly. (S-30)

★★★★★

CHICKEN MCFANZINE #1 (1 stamp from 3740 Stalker Rd., Macedon, NY 14502): A sort-of music zine by the guy who also puts out **SHARK ALERT**. I say "sort-of" because the only interview, with Straight From the Heart, doesn't take up too much room, and the record reviews don't either. But that's OK since it leaves space for zine reviews, a report on a war toys protest, and thoughts on straightedge and punk conformity. Lots of ideas for the price, though they'd like letters as well as stamps. (D-16)

★★★★★

CHICKEN SLACKS #3 ($2.50 from Mary Fleener, 309 Oceanview Ave., Encinitas, CA 92024): This is the Soul issue of this comic of illustrated song lyrics: Jim Siergey doing Screamin' Jay Hawkins, Ken Struck doing Muddy Waters, Mark Martin with Marvin Gaye, and many more. Lots of love and strange characters here, getting down to the funkiest silent music possible. (D-30)

★★★★★

CHILI PAPER #2 ($2 from John Edelstein, RD #1, Box 138C, Stonington, CT 06378): Sort of centered on music — at least the most verbiage here is given over to the Government Issue interview — but apparently more interested in collages and doodles. The margins are filled with silly little cartoons and psychedelic letters, media clippings and movie posters. A very personal vision of the world. (S-40)

★★★★★

CHINESE SLIPPERS ($3 from Steve LeBlanc, 76 Emerson Rd., Watertown, MA 02172): Four small booklets in a special wrapper to form a package that fits neatly in a shirt pocket. Each one (*Postcard From Rome, Eyelash Kisses, Vampire Photos, Postcard From London*) is a micro-chapbook of Steve's work, with short stories (one in each booklet is called **CHINESE SLIPPERS**, echoing the title of the whole), collagees and nifty layouts. A fun little desktop conversation piece. (MM-128)

★★★★★

CHOKEHOLD #8 (50¢ from Lance LeVine, 3113 S. Parnell, Chicago, IL 60616): A lighthearted wrestling newsletter that's out more to have fun than bring out the latest news. #8 features the results of their rather frivolous year-end poll. In #9 Lance reports an encounter with a wrestler who doesn't like his writing; however, he survived to tell of this. (S-10)

★★★★★

CHOPLOGIC #4 (50¢ stamps or $1 cash from 151 First Ave. #D, New York, NY 10003): This is a "poster issue" of this chameleonlike postmodern zine, featuring five full-sheet posters. They range from a trainpoem by Geof Huth to an anti-vegetarian smear to a map of the world captioned "You Are Here". Graphically interesting. (L-6t)

★★★★★

THE CIRCLE Vol. 3 #10 ($14/yr from 1530 E. Franklin, Minneapolis, MN 55404): "News from an American Indian Perspective". And indeed, this is much more focused on news than the other Native American publications I see, with an eye towards political, social, and civil rights issues. Their range is wider than that, though, running from folklore to sports to eating. (T-32t)

★★★★★

CIRCLE OF LIGHT #74 ($15/yr from PO Box 180732, Dallas, TX 75218): A "Magazine of Emerging Ideas and Consumer Issues". What this appears to mean is a vehicle for New Age advertising and very light stories. #74 reviews a macrobiotic restaurant and quotes a new work on the symbolism of flowers. (S-12t)

★★★★★

CIRQUE DIVERS #99-100 (IRCs for info from 13, rue Roture, 4020 Liege, BELGIUM): A thick mini of art and texts. There's a decidedly mail art flavor to some of this, although they also print poetry, some short stories, and cartoons. The main language of use is French, followed by English (notably in the special section of screwball drawings from Glen Baxter). These people appear to be quite well organized but they don't explain themselves very thoroughly. (M-96r)

★★★★★

CITY PAGES #430 ($22/52 issues from PO Box 59183, Minneapolis, MN 55459-0183): A culture-oriented community newspaper without a whole lot of feature articles. The bulk of the paper is taken up by media reviews and calendar listings, useful enough but not real interesting to out-of-towners. Investigative reporting here gets into the legislation allowing living wills in Minneapolis and a case of drug-dealing at the Y. (T-40t)

★★★★★

CIVILIAN-BASED DEFENSE: NEWS & OPINION Vol. 5 #1 ($8/yr from PO Box 31616, Omaha, NE 68131): A newsletter devoted to studying an idea which is so unknown it can't yet be popular or unpopular: the idea that a credible national defense could be created by training the population in techniques of nonviolent non-cooperation with any invader. They provide bibliographies and study resources, and some ideas on how groups can investigate this idea on their own. (S-8t)

★★★★★

CIVIS #4 ($2 from Civitas, PO Box 26, Swain, NY 14884) : Radical animal rights arguments that call for the complete abolition of all vivisection now. The bulletin is edited by Hans Reusch, a medical doctor who holds these views and a great many other unpopular ones, which have put him at odds with most animal welfare societies. There's a lot of shit-slinging here along with news on useless vivisection. Throw in an extra buck or so for a copy of **THE CIVIL ABOLITIONIST**, a U.S.-produced adjunct zine. (S-12t)

★★★★★

CLARION CALL #3 (R100/yr from Bureau of Communications, KwaZulu Government, PO Box 650915, Benmore 2010, SOUTH AFRICA): A single-issue slick magazine from a South African group called Inkatha, which has 1.6 million black members and is utterly *against* sanctions. They basically argue that the impact on black South Africans will be horrendous and that the only people who want sanctions are those who demand a socialist revolution and want to destroy the free market on the way. (S-49t)

★★★★★

CLAWHAMMERS #1 ($1.50 & 2 stamps from Jim Krouse, RD #2 Box 166, New Castle, PA 16101): A new zine designed to give underground artists somewhere to show off their works. There's a definite punk flavor here, as things tend towards the gory, and Jim provides little stories in the form of captions for most pictures. Needs some sprucing up, but it's an interesting idea. (S-10)

★★★★★

CLIPOPHILIA ($1 from PO Box 5671, Portland, OR 97228): A collection of oddball newspaper clippings, taken only from reputable papers, rather than the tabloids. A few of the dozens of headlines here: "Court rules that no law bars boorish behavior", "Man united with lost trailer, headstone" and "Dog set to die for llama maulings wins reprieve." (D-36t)

★★★★★

CLOTHED WITH THE SUN Vol. 8 #1-4 ($8 from PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54902): A long-running naturist publication (naturists differ from nudists in that they consider clothing optional rather than simply unnatural) that is rather substantial. They track a lot of controversies, recently being concerned about several lawsuits and about photography at naturist events. Lots of natural pictures including some color pages in every issue, plus contact addresses, updates on where it's cool to be nude, and an active letter column. (S-100t)

★★★★★

CMJ NEW MUSIC REPORT #165-167 (Sample on request from College Media Inc., 830 Willis Ave., Albertson, NY 11507): An incredible collection of reviews (just a bit longer than the ones we do) and news from the (mostly) independent music industry. Besides hundreds of notes on new records, they publish charts and playlists from around the country and various genres, news releases from the labels, and industry news. Pricey to subscribe to but cheap to sample, and certainly worth it if you can badger a radio station to pay for your copy. (L-58t)

★★★★★

COALITION FOR PRISONERS' RIGHTS NEWSLETTER Vol. 14 #1-4 (Donation from PO Box 1911, Santa Fe, NM 87504): Just what the title says, a networking journal for those concerned with the rights of prisoners. They publish many letters from the inside, as well as bits of news. #1 has contact info for the Committee to End the Marion Lockdown. #3 examines the deterioration of civil rights in Britain. #4 announces a survey to investigate torture in US prisons (and yes, there are some prisons in this country that do not meet international standards for decency — Marion, for example). (HL-8)

★★★★★

COLLINWOOD REVISITED #7 ($10/7 issues from Bruce Yarbor, 2306 N. MacArthur, Oklahoma City, OK 73127): A Dark Shadows fanzine that's heavily into networking. In #7 Bruce wraps up the whole field as best he can, giving dozens of addresses for other fanzines, books, fan groups, and more. There are also reviews of various DS-related publications. (S-25)

★★★★★

COLORBLIND #1 ($1.45 *CASH* from PO Box 11211, Chicago, IL 60611-0211): An anti-racist zine from a coalition of Midwestern groups of punks, skinheads, and other alternative folks who don't particularly like the media portrayal of all skinheads as Nazi brutes — but don't like the Nazi brutes either. They advocate a combination of education and direct action, and are doing good work networking activists together. A few pages veer off into related topics like sexism, animal rights, and straightedge. (S-48t)

★★★★★

COLTSFOOT Vol. X #1-2 ($10/6 issues from James Troy, Route 1, Box 313A, Shipman, VA 22971): #1 marks ten years of publishing the news about wild plants and their uses. #1 also has articles on lamb's quarters, mushrooms, and mistletoe; the writers look at food, medicinal, and occasionally other uses. Regular book reviews give links into wider pastures of plant appreciation as well. #2 includes articles on ginseng, chickweed, and poisonous plants. (D-22r)

★★★★★

COMBAT STANCE #1 (50¢ (?) from 421 Elm St. #4, Westfield, NJ 07090): This new punk zine spreads the word that Uniform Choice has borrowed some of its lyrics from Hallmark Cards before getting into the main meat, a long interview with Burden of Proof. There's also a few reviews and some other band chatter, as well as repeated putdowns of Connecticut and its music. (S-20)

★★★★★

COMIC PHOBIA #1 ($1.50 from Robert Carobene, PO Box 620, Fresh Meadows, NY 11365): This is a few years old, but Robert assures me there are still plenty of copies in his closet. The comics here, especially the lead feature ("Captain Existentialist") are pretty silly and funny. The drawing style is not very polished — call it high school level. On the whole, a decent buy but not a fantastic one. (S-28)

★★★★★

COMICS F/X #7 ($1.50 from PO Box 95968, Seattle, WA 98145-2968): A comics news tabloid with a large staff and a lot of features. They focus pretty exclusively on small press and amateur comics, and publish a mix of reviews, news, convention reports — and of course comic art. #7 includes a feature article on Christian comics and an interview with Allen Freeman. Well-done and lacking the pretension that characterizes the field. (T-32r)

★★★★★

COMIC TRASH #3 ($3 from Fredy Engel, Unistr. 5, 48 Bielefeld 1, WEST GERMANY): A collection of psychedelic and horrific artowrk. Ther's no real coherent story line to most of this, just a melange of punk and rock lyrics, swastikas and peace signs, skulls and the trappings of war. Very darkly humorous. A few short strips in German, but most captions are in English. (A4-28)

★★★★★

COMIC UPDATE #101 ($1.50 from Ian Shires, PO Box 360922, Strongsville, OH 44136): A newszine about small press comics — really limited circulation things including mostly minis. There are a few pages here, but the bulk of this is taken up with tedious feuding between various insignificant publishers who seem to think their part of the small press is

Reacting to revelations that have exposed its fraudulent practices, the biomedical research industry has been trumpeting the ridiculous and erroneous claim that "all successful treatments .... virtually every modern medical therapy is due.. ... To experimentation on animals" (N.E. Journal of Medicine).

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the most important thing since the invention of disposable diapers. (M-40t) *[As of late March, Ian is not publishing new issues; I don't know if back issues are available.]*

★★★★★

COMMON GROUND Winter 1988 ($4 from 305 San Anselmo Ave. #217, San Anselmo, CA 94960): A mammoth directory of the New Age, providing "access to resources" rather than reviews or explanations. There are an awful lot of things here, from piano instruction to acupuncture to midwifery to reiki to sorcery to neuromuscular massage to — well, you pretty much have to see it to believe it, unless you live in the Bay Area and already trip over all this stuff. (O-124t)

★★★★★

COMMUNITY CAPITAL NEWS #8 (On request from PO Box 404920, Brooklyn, NY 11240-4920): Newsletter of a group that's busy organizing a socially responsible bank to make loans to worthy small businesses and housing in the New York area. They have lots of great ideas, but are still waiting for regulatory approval. Hopefully that will come soon and you'll be able to put your funds to work here. (S-2t)

★★★★★

THE COMPLEAT MOTHER Winter 1989 ($2.50 from Tamara B. Orr, PO Box 1793, Warsaw, IN 46580-1793): Tamara has taken over the US editing duties but this magazine of alternatives in childbirth and mothering is still being published by Catherine Young in Canada. Every issue is packed with news about breastfeeding, home and alternative birth, child-rearing, late weaning, potty-training, natural diapers...you name it. An incredible collection of information and links to more information. (S-64t)

★★★★★

COMPOST NEWSLETTER Brigid-Eostre 1989 ($1.50 from Valerie Walker [note "For CNL" on check] 729 Fifth Ave., San Francisco, CA 94118): A lighthearted pagan zine that's produced quite well with computer aid. The Brigid issue has a couple of articles on Brigid (what a coincidence!), some killer reviews of books by Barbara Walker, excerpts from the Compost coven's Disk of Shadows and, for some reasons, Geraldo clippings. Eostre features lots of barbarians and notes on sacred oaks. (S-20t)

★★★★★

THE CONNECTION #156-157 ($2.50 from Erwin S. Strauss, PO Box 3343, Fairfax, VA 22038): An apa centered in the Libertarian wing of politics but with folks from all over (and one contributer currently calling for more communist participation). Topics include fantastic investment possibilities, single taxes, revolution, and lots of ad hominem attacks on contributors and other folks. (D-88r)

★★★★★

CON NEWS Vol. 1 #2-3 ($12/yr from Privateer Publishing, 7735 Osceola St., Westminster, CO 80234): Another source of information for the attendee of SF, fantasy, or gaming conventions. The calender only occupies about a quarter of the space here. The rest is divided between convention reports and ideas on how they can or should be run. The zine is developing rapidly, with a lot more articles in #3 — for example, on one inexpensive costuming. Their availability via BBS (at 303-426-0623) is a neat touch. (T-4t)

★★★★★

CONSERVATIVES

I sometimes have trouble sorting out the various stands of folks concerned with preserving what's good about the past, so it's likely some of these zines wouldn't appreciate being grouped with others in the same category. But I do see them as working in some of the same general areas — and even though I'm rather far to the left myself, I happen to think a lot of what these people are doing is worthwhile.

•**ARMED CITIZEN NEWS** #198-199 ($6/yr from PO Box 78336, Seattle, WA 98178): A tabloid digest for the supporter of Second Amendment rights to keep and bear arms — what some folks call "gun nuts". This is a mix of reprinted editorials and stories about situations where guns saved lives, plus lots of contacts to other zines and organizations with similar concerns. (T-12t)

•**CAMPUS REPORT** Vol. IV #1 ($15/yr from Accuracy in Academia, 1275 K St. NW #1150, Washington, DC 20005): Newspaper of this academic watchdog group that tries to challenge professors who "teach you *what* to think, not *how* to think". Naturally, this means liberals and radicals; we all know conservatives would do no such thing. Nauseatingly smarmy but occasionally a good source of information on free speech struggles. (T-8t)

•**CAMPUS REVIEW** Vol. 5 #2 ($5/yr from 336 S. Clinton #16, Iowa City, IA 52240): Young conservatives with a sense of humor. In this issue they suggest reasons to vote against the incumbent radicals at their university, examine the U.. of Iowa's affirmative action policy, and offer a lifetime subscription to anyone who guns down the Ayatollah Khomeini. (T-16t)

•**THE CHICAGO CRUCIBLE** Vol. 1 #4 ($1 (?) from University of Chicago, Ida Noyes Hall, 1212 E. 59th St., Chicago, IL 60637): A conservative student journal that's distinguished by its s willingness to run rebuttals and dissenting opinions from liberals and even socialists. The tone of the debate is high, and topics range from student representation on the Board of Trustees to the top 10 albums of 1988. (S-32t)

•**CONSERVATIVE DIGEST** Jan./Feb. 1989 ($4 from Second Opinion Publications, National Press Building #927, Washington, DC 20045): This well-heeled slick conservative magazine has abandoned its **READERS DIGEST** clone look in favor of full size. It's still the same mix though: "What the Country Needs is *Real* Majority Rule", "Profile: John Sununu" and "The Stouthearted Jesse Helms" are featured in this issue. (S-70t)

•**THE FREEMAN** Feb.-Apr. 1989 (On Request from FEE, 30 South Broadway, Irvington-on-Hudson, NY 10533): A zine from the libertarian end of the conservative spectrum. These people have an undying faith in the free market, and present their views in a variety of short essays. In the February issue: supermarkets as a perfect market, the despicable nature of "comparable worth", the evils of Communism, and more. April ranges from Tom Paine to Milton Friedman. (S-42t)

•**INSTAURATION** Vol. 14 #2-5 ($25/12 issues from Howard Allen Enterprises, PO Box 76, Cape Canaveral, FL 32920): This is probably the most controversial of the bunch, inasmuch as it's published by and for folks who feel the "majority" Northern European white culture of this country is being lost in the melting pot. But the writers are sensible even if many find their views odious, and reading it will at the very least provoke thought (or rage). #5 features David Duke on the cover and a member of The Order inside, explaining the ideas behind that group. (S-36t)

•**THE KANSAS INTELLIGENCER** Vol. 3 #2-4 ($12/yr from R.W. Clack, 5524 Anderson Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502): Pretty straightforward conservative editorializing. #2 includes Clack's ideas about the savings & loan mess — he suggests that the problem lies in trying to insure a speculative activity, and suggests only partial coverage. #3 looks at counterevidence to recent environmental worries and the Congressional pay raise. (L-2t)

•**LOOKOUT** Vol. 1 #4 ($2 from PO Box 554, Ipswich, MA 01938): These people are on the rampage against the immoral folks they perceive as destroying America, mostly the "abortionist Planned Parenthood and the anti-family American Civil Liberties Union". They're also rabidly homophobic and have a bug up their ass about euthanasia. There's a moderate amount of humor value here, but they probably shouldn't be encouraged. (S-8t)

•**THE OSPREY** Vol. 1 #1 ($20/yr from CFPA, PO Box 2553, Philadelphia, PA 19147): New house organ of the Christian Falangist Party of America, who demand that new members sign a statement that they are not leftist. However, they are apparently expected to be fiercely Christian and nationalist. News of embattled Christians from around the world, suggestions to buy assault rifles while you still can, and heavy anti-communist rhetoric add up to a scary picture.. (L-7t)

•**THE UPRIGHT OSTRICH** Vol. VIII #2-4 ($3 from Peggy Poor, PO Box 11691, Milwaukee, WI 53211): This one has had more staying power than other Constitutionalist zines, perhaps due to an intriguing mix of solid information and outrageous speculations. They come down hard on income taxes, Federal prison industries, and various other injustices that don't get a lot of press. Free energy and currency reforms are other perennial concerns. In #4 they gloat over a cash crunch at the IRS. (S-24t)

★★★★★

CONSERVATORY OF AMERICAN LETTERS NEWSLETTER Vol. IV #1 ($2 from PO Box 88, Thomaston, ME 04861): The CAL exists to encourage literary talent and help make public exceptional works whether they're "commercial" or not. They do this by publishing, by providing reasonably-priced printing services, and by publicizing their members' work. In this issue Sesshu Foster also reports on the current Nicaraguan poetry scene. (S-6t)

★★★★★

CONTEST NEWSLETTER Vol. 14 #5-6 ($2 from Park Avenue Publishing, 500 Fifth Ave., new York, NY 10036): The basic facts on how to enter dozens of giveaway contests and sweepstakes: where to write, what the prizes are, how to enter. They also include general tips on contesting and news of their readers who have won things. I can think of stupider hobbies. (S-12t)

★★★★★

CONVERGING PATHS Spring 1989 ($4 from PO Box 63, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572): A pagan zine which features fiction and myth as well as the more usual rituals and thoughts on what the Craft is and means. They tend to be focused on the internal feelings and changes of those participating. Every issue also includes a page or two of Gardnerian thoughts to try to aid harmony between various groups. (S-33)

★★★★★

CONVOLUSIONS Vol. 1 #2 (1 IRC from Cerebral Shorts, 5/143 Glenhuntly Road, Elwood 3184, AUSTRALIA): A new journal of mail art that is quite well put together. In addition to featuring the works of artists from around the world, they publish a short section of announcements of upcoming and continuing shows. They're also trying to put together **BRAINSTEM**, a collection of works from 100 artists, to be distributed to all participants; get in touch for more details. (A5-16t)

★★★★★

THE CORE #10-11 ($2.50 from IAO Core, 326 Dogwood, Walnut Creek, CA 94598): Strange collages, poster art, bits of ceremonial magick (an analysis of television by the Temple ov Psychick Youth appears in #11), strange sex, and other oddities show up in this zine from a "gaggle of giddy media saboteurs". They also review underground music and video and reprint images of desolation from all over. (S-52t)

★★★★★

COUNTDOWN Vol. 3 #11 ($3 from PO Box 4000, Palos Verdes, CA 90274): "Hal Lindsey's Monthly Journal of Prophecy News and Analysis". You remember him — he's the guy who wrote **THE LATE GREAT**

PLANET EARTH a couple of decades back, claiming that we were living in the end times and that it was time to step up and get saved. Well, this is more of the same — unrelenting doom, a pessimistic view of the news, with no hope except for the elect. A profoundly nasty way to think about the world. (S-22t)

★★★★★

COUNTER CULTURE #5 ($7/5 issues from Sean Wolf Hill, 2730 Monroe-Concord Rd., Troy, OH 45373): A zine all about diners — the classic kind that look like streamlined railroad cars and their spiritual descendents, not mindless Yuppoid imitations. Sean and friends present the diner in reality, film, and even old trade magazines, with sales slips tucked between the pages and classic postcards. I only wish the photos came out better. (S-22r)

★★★★★

COVENANT RENEWAL Vol. III #2-4 (On Request from Institute for Christian Economics, PO Box 8000, Tyler, TX 75711): An informative little theological zine from a Christian Reconstructionist (I'm not sure what that means but I know it's the right word). In #2 Ray Sutton dissects and classifies the varieties of postmillennialism held by various folks today. #3 examines the covenantal structure of the Book of Hebrews. (S-4t)

★★★★★

CRAMPED AND WET #4 ($1 from 3015 Virginia, Sioux City, IA 51104): Another zine from the margins, with a consciously "punk" approach to the world. There's lotsa folks in here asking "why?" about various things, and even a few answers, though they tend to be sort of hard & gritty. Anarcho-porn from Bob Black, poetry from Todd Moore, news & rumors from Sioux City and a freewheeling zine & book review make up most of the package. Fun & getting better fast. (S-14r)

★★★★★

CREATION/EVOLUTION #XXIV ($3 from PO Box 146, Amherst, NY 14226-0146): A rather different approach to refuting the creationists which starts by looking at what they've said. This magazine consists of scholarly essays sorting out the major strands of creationist thought, with appropriate footnotes — so that it may be better argued against. Very well done. (D-46t)

★★★★★

CREATIVE LOAFING Vol. 2 #52-Vol. 3 #2 ($1 (?) from 1620 South Blvd. #3A, Charlotte, NC 28203): A local alternative paper that's mostly ads and calendar listings but still sneaks in a feature now and then. #52 looks at the problems of independent booksellers in the area; #2 goes up in the air with a traffic reporter. Fred Mills provides music coverage and Lynda Barry comics for every issue. (T-16t)

★★★★★

CRITICAL WAVE #9 ($10/6 issues from Tom Hanlon, 13833 N. Amiss Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70810-5044): Published in Britain (Tom is the U.S. distributor), this is a science fiction news & review zine. They report on everything from convention bids to coming movies to the future of British SF. Reviews of films, fanzines and pro books are included. Lots of material here, all put forward in a no-nonsense and fairhanded manner. (A4-19r)

★★★★★

CRITIQUE #30 ($5 from PO Box 11368, Santa Rosa, CA 95406): This journal of unusual ideas keeps getting bigger and better. #30 is a theme issue on "Miracles", with Robert Anton Wilson writing about Lourdes, Waves Forest on oxygenation cures, a few words from the classic C.S. Lewis and other looks at things as diverse as "A Course in Miracles" and Padre Pio. Strange and eerie books come in for review, and all manner of non-consensus theories get a thorough airing. Fascinating and informative, though sometimes in need of a few grains of salt. (S-96t)

★★★★★

CRITTERS #38 ($3.25 from Fantagraphics Books, 1800 Bridgegate St. #101, Westlake Village, CA 91361): A special huge anthology issue of this silly animal comic. Features include a whole strip of Teutonic centaurs from Donna Barr, Stan Sakai's "Usagi Yojimbo" Japanese martial rabbit, and J.P. Morgan's superhero gone nutty Fission Chicken. (S-48)

★★★★★

CROSSCURRENTS #3 (50 ¢ from Liam Brooks, 11439A Ptarmigan Dr., Austin, TX 78758): Newsletter of the Small Press League, one of the associations of independent comic artists which exists to publicize self-published books and make the members rich and famous. #3 is the first issue in a while, and consists mostly of attempts to revitalize the organization by figuring out what it's good for. Not worth it unless you put out comics, and probably not even then. (D-4)

★★★★★

CRYONICS Vol. 9 #12-Vol. 10 #3 ($2 from Alcor, 12327 Doherty St., Riverside, CA 92503): It's been a busy time for this cryonics organization; they've frozen another patient and gotten embroiled in even more lawsuits. It appears that the California authorities are determined to prevent people from electing to be cryonically preserved. Even one issue of this will make you shake your head in wonder at the neophobia of some people, and perhaps encourage you to begin arranging for your own potential ultimate survival. #3 has more cryonics history and an update/scorecard on all the lawsuits. (HL-41t)

★★★★★

CUBIST POP MANIFESTO #5-6 (75¢ from 3408 Juliet St., Pittsburgh, PA 15213): Mostly music-oriented but still with space for things like Confederate Civil War monuments. There's some nice fresh approaches in #5, like a discussion review of a compilation album by 3 people and zine reviews that consist of representative quotes. Also live coverage here, from Nugent to Crucial Youth and a history of alternative band space in Pittsburgh. #6 has an interview with artist Wayne Honath, a Meat Loaf show review, and the start of a series on the decline of baseball cards. (D-20t)

★★★★★

CULTURAL DEMOCRACY #37 ($25/yr from Alliance for Cultural Democracy, PO Box 7591, Minneapolis, MN 55407): Newsletter of a group which feels that culture is a precious resource that should belong to the people rather than the big corporations. They're concerned with recovering suppressed cultures (the 500th anniversary of the Spanish Invasion fo the New World is shaping up to be a big event for them) and providing alternatives to the current dominant paradigms in the area. (S-12t)

★★★★★

CURIOS THING 2 (A.1. Waste Paper Co., Ltd., 71, Lambeth Walk, London SE11, ENGLAND): Probably most available for artistic contributions, as this is rather artistic in itself, all covered with rubber stamps and arriving in an envelope festooned with silliness. This mail-art mini even makes fun of the mail and performance art movements, along with bringing humor to everyday life. A good argument for more democratic art. (M-12)

★★★★★

DABLA #4 ($1 from Gizmo Stress, PO Box 1153, Russellville, AL 35653): A journal of art and sedition. This issue sort of focuses on the police, and it doesn't have a lot of nice things to say about them — though it does have a few pages on your rights when arrested. Also collages, news clippings, police riot drawings and a few other odds and ends. (HL-16t)

★★★★★

DAILY COW (50¢ from David Wyder, 121 Gregory Ave. #B-7, Passaic, NJ 07055): A cute little bit of humor written from the cow's point of view. The lead story concerns a strike of milk cows until such time as the "Cow Bull of Rights" is panned. There are also silly puns, a word search, television coverage, cow news and records, and more. (S-9)

★★★★★

DAMN RAG #1 ($1 from Sgt. Robert Jones, Box 545, C TRP 1/2 ACR, APO New York, NY 09411-0220): A new Discordian publication from one of the surviving staffers of the old **MASTER MONOGRAPH**. The Ripe Reverend Malfunction puts together some ranting and raving, a visionary story or two, some bits of military life, and a wedged view of the world to make this package. Please *don't* put the zine name on the envelope; it tends to upset the military. (S-10)

★★★★★

DAMP #4 ($2 from Kevin Kraynick, PO Box 14, S. Willington, CT 06265): Mostly music, though the other bits are a treat: interview with Harvey Pekar and Mark Bilokur portfolio in this issue. On the audio front, we have Vomit Launch, Fred Frith, Masters of the Obvious, Rhys Chatham, and more. In-depth interviews and plenty of record reviews add up to a good package. (S-64r)

★★★★★

DAS FANGOLD Vol. 1 #1 ($2 from Alexis Gilliland, 4030 8th St. South, Arlington, VA 22204): A rather specialized science fiction fanzine. You see, lately Worldcon committees have been hanging on to large chunks of profit, which some people resent. Alexis uses this zine to fire the first salvo in the war over the expected 1992 profit, which he argues should be sent back to the members of the convention. Sure to provoke some fireworks. (S-8)

★★★★★

DEAD LETTER #3 ($1 from Ryan, 7146 Remmet Ave. #120, Canoga Park, CA 91303): A punk zine that's concerned with more than just music. Animal rights get heavy play in this issue, along with various images of a world suppressed by the media and ruling class. They interview A Solution, Headstrong and a few others and print a scene report from Sweden, along with a great hodgepodge of stuff laid out in the traditional punk-mess manner. (S-20r)

★★★★★

DEAD ROY #1 ($3 *CASH/MO* from Robert Deathrage, 3425 John Lee Ln., Modesto, CA 95350): Well, despite Modesto not having much of a scene (according to the editor), they've put together one mammoth music zine here, oriented towards punk and hardcore. Lots of reviews, eight or ten interviews (including Chemical Dependency and Sore Throat), and a special photo section with pages and pages of band and gig shots. They also sneak in some artwork and an extensive list of what they've listened to lately. Lots of work here, and an impressive debut. (S-80)

★★★★★

DEAD SERIOUS #2 ($1.50 from 28 First Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11231): Lots of photos grace the pages of this hardcore music zine. Inside there are interviews with Beyond, Unit Price, Believers and Freewill. It's still a pretty sketchy effort, but the framework is there for future growth. (S-28)

★★★★★

DEATH B4 CRITICISM #1 (99¢ from Bluewater Avery, 2314 "O" St., Sacramento, CA 95816): A collection of original art, collages, and rants. As far as I can tell, Bluewater is just a wee bit annoyed at the facades required by society, hence this attack on false appearances and fakery. (S-14)

★★★★★

DEATH BOX #1 (Free from Ross, 1437-1 Monument St., Concord, MA 01742): A small skatezine with a photo on every page and (mostly) cryptic words to go with them. The writing is about how great skateboarding is, or how crummy Boston is, or just about the folks flying upside down through the air. (D-12)

★★★★★

THE DECADENT WORKER #150-153 ($1/5 issues from Kerry Thornley, PO Box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307): The most up-to-date of Kerry's conspiratorial ramblings. Beginning with #152, he is busy rebutting Jim Garrison's new book, which misrepresents Kerry's knowledge of Lee Harvey Oswald. (S-1)

★★★★★

DECALCOMANIA #61-63 ($1 from Mark Strickert, 3852 N. Oconto, Chicago, IL 60634): A zine for the collector of radio station airchecks and promotional items. #61 contains an updated version of the New Member Booklet, which explains all this in much more detail than I have space for. #62 has a batch of member surveys of the best songs and so on of 1988. #63 discusses "scoping", techniques for compressing recorded shows to the minimum elements needed to preserve their character on tape. (D-20r)

★★★★★

DECENTRALIZE! #11 ($1 from Carol Moore, PO Box 1608, Washington, DC 20013): Carol is trying to promote networking among decentralists of all types from Greens to libertarians (party and otherwise) to anarchists. She publishes a mix of contact info, proposals (like Dean Ahmad's scheme for a cantonized Mideast in this issue) and notes on the politics of alternate political groups. (S-6r)

★★★★★

DECONTROL #1 ($1 from Spencer Sunshine, 205 Dogwood Dr., Lawrenceville, GA 30245): Basic coverage of a whole lot of Atlanta-area bands. These range from Ghost Story and Grinders to Cyanide, Dead Elvis, and Afterwords. Everything from hardcore to metal is included. The whole wraps up with a contact list of addresses for bands, zines, and radio shows. (S-12)

★★★★★

DEFENESTRATED CARP and DECOMMISSIONING CORPSES (Stamps or donations from Katrina Kelly, 18 Taylor Ave., Earlville, NY 13332): The name changes but the zine is the same (Katrina asks that you not mention the name on the envelope anyhow). Inside are short stories and opinion pieces, personal thoughts, cartoons, and lots of marginal graffiti. Sort of a party in print, though with an occasional serious focus (most of the second issue is devoted to the possibility of a nearby nukewaste dump). (S-6)

★★★★★

THE DEFENSE MONITOR Vol. XVII #4 ($1 from Center for Defense Information, 1500 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20005): This is an interesting contribution to the debates over national defense. CDI's chief, Rear Admiral Gene La Rocque, argues here for a massive demobilization of American military forces, leaving a core (roughly a third what we have today) which he argues is more than adequate for defense. This would have obvious benefits for the economy and probably for foreign affairs as well. (S-8t)

★★★★★

DEJA VU #5 ($1 from Eric & Kathy Mayer, 279 Collingwood Dr., Rochester, NY 14621): A journal of personal writing, mostly from Eric, and letters from odd people of various subcultures. In #5 Eric discusses some zoo experiences (where he and Kathy do some volunteer work), Al Ackerman reveals his secrets of small-press success, and Eric closes up with a survey of various small spiritual publications. (D-20r)

★★★★★

DEMOCRATIC LEFT Vol. XVI #3 ($1.50 from DSA, 15 Dutch St. #500, New York, NY 10038): The newsletter of the Democratic Socialists of America. Much of #3 is focused on the new liberal fascination with family issues. There's an especially good article from Barbara Ehrenreich arguing that we should not ignore the diversity of families in our haste to colonize this piece of political turf. (S-24t)

★★★★★

DE NAR #29-31 (IRCs from Frank Geeraert, Bunderdreef 2, 1710 DILBEEK, BELGIUM): A monthly networking journal published in Dutch. They review records, zines and tapes, publish a calendar of local activities, and run feature articles. They seem to be anarchist-influenced if perhaps not precisely anarchist. A lot of info waiting for people who can read it. #31 features a lot of periodical reviews from all over. (D-56r)

★★★★★

DHARMA COMBAT #5 ($2.50 from Jim Keith, PO Box 20593, Sun Valley, NV 89433): An apa devoted to "spirituality, metaphysics, religion and worldviews". Various readers contribute everything from utter foaming rants to reasoned metaphysical discussion. Jim also reprints a great deal of stuff from the fringes and kooks, making this entertaining even if you're not participating. (D-84r)

★★★★★

DIALOGUE #79-80 ($5/yr from Brad Ott, 916 Euterpe St., New Orleans, LA 70130): #79 is a placeholder issue of this community alternative zine, reflecting on the year past and plotting plans for the year to come. They still get in their calendar of local events, and this is worth getting if you're in the NoLA area. With #80 they're back up to full-size and chock full of news about civil rights, local arts, police brutality, energy creeps, and much more. (HL-16r)

★★★★★

DIARIST'S JOURNAL #14-16 ($2 from 102 W. Water St., Lansford, PA 18232): A collection of modern diary excerpts, reviews of published diaries, and notes on the diarist's craft. These glimpses into other people's worlds are often quite fascinating, and the ones printed here range from utterly mundane to very exciting. (T-20t)

★★★★★

DIRECTORY OF LIBERTARIAN PERIODICALS #6 ($3 from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): A reference work for someone who's interested in finding more Libertarian zines than I list. Jim catalogs about 150 of them, giving prices and freqency as well as addresses and brief descriptive comments. (S-8r)

★★★★★

DIRTY LINEN UPDATE #24A ($15/yr from PO Box 66600, Baltimore, MD 21239-6600: That price includes a subscription to the impressive DIRTY LINEN (see FF29) as well as this interim newsletter. This is, as the title suggests, the latest news from the folk-rock (as typified by Fairport Convention) world. Most of it is tour schedules, for everyone from O.J. Anderson through Utah Phillips to Jesse Winchester. (S-7t)

★★★★★

DISASTER AREA #3 (IRCs from Andreas Hartwig, Am Timpen 18, 4030 Ratingen 6, WEST GERMANY): A small music zine that branches out to things like the fiction of HP Lovecraft and splatter films. It's all in German except for an RKL interview in English. Lots of small print and the sloppy collaged layout that used to be more prevalent than it is now. (A5-8r)

★★★★★

DISCOMFIT Vol. 1 #3 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 30313, Plaza Stn., Kansas City, MO 64112): A liberal to radical collection of political essays and views from around the Midwest. there's a lot of issues covered here: war tax resistance, Leonard Peltier, Dan Quayle's background, pro-choice, free speech, black history and more. They also throw in plenty of graphics and a few bits of poetry and review. (T-28)

★★★★★

DISCOTEXT Feb.-Apr. 1989 ($12/12 issues from Graceland, 1250 Richards St., Vancouver, BC V6B 3G2 CANADA): Graceland is a nightclub, and this is their zine. Besides keeping you up to date about their various events and shows, they run a wacky horoscope and review records. Nicely done without padding. (S-16t)

★★★★★

DISCOURSE #8 ($1.50 from Mike Shanley, 6433 Landview Rd., Pittsburgh, PA 15217): A music zine that seems to be centered on the Pittsburgh live scene (what there is of it). #8 opens with a one-two punch, interviews with the Pixies and Throwing Muses, and goes on to Downy Mildew and Powder French. A good mix of well-known and not-yet-well-known bands. (S-28)

★★★★★

DISCOVERIES Vol. 2 #3 ($2.50 from PO Box 255, Port Townsend, WA 98368): A magazine for record collectors. As with others of this genre, there is a sizable content of ads, plus feature articles on various collectibles, from obscure 40's picture discs to Joan Jett to the ever-popular Beatles. One thing not so common is the extensive letter column, with readers writing about the state of music as well as the value of old records. (T-132t)

★★★★★

DISCUSSION BULLETIN #33-34 ($3/yr from PO Box 1564, Grand Rapids, MI 49501): An apa for "third force socialists": DeLeonists, Syndicalists, Industrial Unionists and other folks calling for workplace organization. #33 includes a partial critique of Marx by John Crump and a report on the St. Louis Conference on Workers' Self-Organization, which seems to have had complementary strengths to those of recent anarchist gatherings. #34 has a longish report on the labor situation in Norway. (HL-24r)

★★★★★

DISINFORMATION #11 ($10 from Institute for International Studies, 1815 H St. NW #600, Washington, DC 20006): A slick little journal billing itself as the "Soviet Active Measures and Disinformation Forecase." They try to track Moscow's lies around the world, but a careful reading suggests they take a nonfalsifiable position; there is no action the USSR could take that could not be interpreted as disinformation. Despite this they also do good work in digging up actual propaganda campaigns and Moscow gold in the west. (S-22t)

★★★★★

DISTANT VIOLINS #225 (75¢, but add some for postage, from PO Box 219, Newtown, NSW 2042, AUSTRALIA): A down-under music thing that's a bit cranky about the scene, US ignorance of Australian music, spotlights on record labels, and other stuff. On the other hand they also manage an interview with Straightjacket Fits, a lot of gossip you probably won't find elsewhere, and some decent live and record reviews. (A4-8r)

★★★★★

THE DILLINGER RELIC #60 ($1 or the Usual [trades by arrangement only] from Arthur D. Hlavaty, PO Box 52028, Durham, NC 27717): Arthur has taken his zine the desktop publishing route as part of his new career as a graduate student, and it's quite self-referential in discussing his personal experiences in the Library Science field. Further on there's horror book reviews by Bernadette Bosky, convention reportage, and some critiques (or at least recommendations) of current SF. (S-14t)

★★★★★

DMZ #7 ($1 from VVAW, PO Box 74, Brooklyn, NY 11215): The newsletter of the New York/New Jersey chapter of Vietnam Veterans Against the War. Most of #7 focuses on the Veterans' Peace Convoy, a mission to send humanitarian aid to Central America that was held up at the border by the Reagan administration. However, they won in court, and have been allowed to continue. The story is told both from the vets' point of view and (thanks to the FOIA) in part from the government's. (S-8t)

★★★★★

DOCUMENTS pages 11-20 (100F/10 issues from Ph. Bille, BP 249, 33012 Bordeaux, FRANCE): A continuing collection of collages and other xerographic art, each page carefully curated with the artist's name, medium and location. The last two pages are made up of contact information (in French) for a variety of mail art projects. (A4-10)

★★★★★

DOOR #3 (£3.50 from Spiral Publications, 8 King Street, Glastonbury, Somerset BA6 9JY, UK): The title is an acronym for "Directory Of Occult Resources", which runs from zines to shops to mail-order booksellers to astrologers, including a fair number from outside England. There are also comics and feature articles, as the magical journal **SPIRAL** has been incorporated into **DOOR**. Much about astral beings and other esoterica here, together with a developing cosmology. (A5-72r)

★★★★★

DOPE #1 ($2 from 10 E. 85th St. #6C, New York, NY 10028): The first zine I've seen devoted exclusively to hip-hop, rap, and similar forms of music. You don't see any of these groups in the other zines: Jungle Borthers, Skatemaster Tate, Mr. Magic, and lots more. There's also best and worst lists (lots of strong opinions here), NYC radio coverage, plenty of photos, and record reviews. (S-30)

★★★★★

DOPPELGANGER #10 ($3.85 from John Benson, 44 Shady Ln., Storrs, CT 06268): A small zine of horror fiction that doesn't shy away from much of anything. Among the strong offerings here are David Montgomery's "Junkyard Angel", a stomach-wrenching tale of love lost and found, and "Kisses From Marilyn", by Jamie Meyers, which successfully melds sex and demonology. They also feature poems and artwork as well as many other twisted stories. (D-59r)

★★★★★

DOVELINK #2 (Donation from Gideon Strauss, c/o Ernst Z., 7 Melbourne Rd., Woodstock 7925, SOUTH AFRICA): A zine by and for draft resisters in South Africa, where avoiding military service is rather difficult and personally costly. Contents mainly divide between discussion of various shades and means of opposition and news on anti-militarism movements in other countries. (A4-20r)

★★★★★

DOWN BY THE BOARDWALK Vol. 2 #5 ($2 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982-0656): "For the Record Collector & Dealer", though actually there isn't a whole lot here for either. There are a few pages of ads and wantlists, but the bulk of this issue is a vintage advertisement from RCA touting the advantages of 45 RPM records. I was fascinated, but then, I'm a historian in training. (S-14)

★★★★★

THE DOWNTRODDEN Vol. 1 #1-2 (1 stamp from AIM Productions, 193 S. Railroad St., Hummelstown, PA 17036): A roundup of news on human rights worldwide, culled from half a dozen major news sources. They don't pretend to be comprehensive or original, but are a good source for a quick overview of just how bad things are. (S-5)

★★★★★

DRAFT Notices Vol. 10 #1-2 ($10/yr from COMD, PO Box 15195, San Diego, CA 92115): A newsletter with roots in draft resistance. Lately they're branching out a bit as part of their long-term opposition to militarism. #1 focuses on war tax resistance and examines the various proposals for National Service. Good solid information and activism. #2 is an exceptionally strong issue, focusing on sexism in progressive circles by inviting women to discuss their own experiences with it. (S-12)

★★★★★

DRAGON SEX #2 ($1.65 from Timothy Paxton, MPO Box 67, Oberlin, OH 44074-0067): A literary zine that features a wide variety of creativity. Besides the expected poems, stories and artwork, Timothy has included sheet music for one of his own compositions. He wants to release a compilation tape of others' interpretations of this music — sounds like an interesting project. (D-20t)

★★★★★

DREAM ($4 from Brian Salzberg, PO Box 131, Block Island, RI 02807): The "Manifesto" issue, this is page upon page of writing in a calligraphic script apparently derived from a dream — and thus completely incomprehensible. No doubt you could convince the gullible that it's anything from Arabic to Tibetan. The Summer '88 "Contributor's Issue" is also still available for $3. It presents a variety of art and words put together to form dreamy images. (HL-36)

★★★★★

DRIFT #5 (Donation from 424 - 280 Dundas St. E., Toronto, ONT M5A 3W1, CANADA): A collection of flotsam and jetsam (no, wait, Flotsam and Jetsam are two of the editors here). Anyhow, there are oddball news stories about things like the dogs controlling the world, philosophy from Fido Dogstoevsi, various evaluations of and plugs for the small press, and some nice artwork here. A sometimes formless collection that remains interesting. (S-24)

★★★★★

DRIPPINGWETTE GAZETTE #7-9 (45¢ from PO Box 2977, Keansburg, NJ 07734): A strange collection of music and popular culture. Included are silly pieces on things like mysterious famous deaths, live and record reviews, restaurant reviews and put-downs, a page of recipes, cartoons, surveys, and more. The whole is sort of vaguely twisted and definitely energetic. There's also a couple of things on the sorry state of TV in #7. #8 has some fun with right-wing evangelists and a few pics from a They Might Be Vaginas gig. #9 came to me covered with mylar spangles and confetti. (S-20)

★★★★★

THE DROOD REVIEW OF MYSTERY Vol. VIII #12-Vol. IX #2 ($16/12 issues from PO Box 8872, Boston, MA 02114): #12 has the annual winter preview of forthcoming titles: 353 mystery and adventure books which have been announced for publication, and a handy reference it is for birthday wish lists. Otherwise, DROOD publishes the same thoughtful reviews of mysteries it always does, with attention to the social message of the book as well as its plot. In #2 Ed Blachman tackles several recent feminist critical surveys of the genre. (S-12t)

★★★★★

DROP DEAD OKLAHOMA #1-2 ($1.50 from PO Box 580393, Tulsa, OK 74158-0393): A music zine with lots of graphics, many borrowed from the mainstream press to make various points about society. Musically, they run from a talk with Crimes Against Humanity in #1 to D.J. Lebowitz in #2 — punk, but not terribly dogmatic about it. Scene reports, reviews, and bits of short stories round it out. Nice look, but a bit light on contents. (D-44t)

★★★★★

THE DRUIDIC TIMES Vol. 1 #4 ($1 from Martin Billheimer, 2778 Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60647): A zine of underground occultism and social commentary. In #4 Martin spotlights the case of Kelly Michaels, one of the latest day-care workers convicted of child molestation on dubious testimony. There's also collages by James Koehnline and an assortment of ecstatic writings. (S-14)

★★★★★

DSA GREEN NEWS Vol. 2 #4-Vol. 3 #1 ($5/yr from Chicago DSA, 1608 N. Milwaukee #403, Chicago, IL 60647): This is from folks who are both members of the Democratic Socialists of America and Greens of one sort or another. #4 is devoted to an examination of "Bookchinism" by editor James

DREAM
magazine
Box 131 Block Island, Rhode Island 02807 U.S.A.

Hughes, arguing that while the recent critique of deep ecology by Murray Bookchin has some good points, it overgeneralizes and gets too mired in one-true-wayism. Maybe so. #1 features responses to this essay and other snippets of movement news. (S-4t)

★★★★★

DUMARS REVIEWS #3 ($1.50 from Terata Publications, PO Box 810, Hawthorne, CA 90251): This is Denise Dumars' zine of personal reviews, of fanzines, books, even occult shops. She picks out a few of the best small-press things she receives each quarter to feature here, and her taste is generally good (which means, by and large, that I agree with her evaluations). Also spotlights one budding poet in every issue. (D-20)

★★★★★

DUNGAR #28 (75¢ from Ian Shires, PO Box 360922, Strongsville, OH 44136): This attempt at a continuing minicomic story has not been faring well, since Ian keeps losing artists. Dungar is a barbarian in a sword and sorcery setting, currently adrift in a forest full of civilized ogres. (M-20)

★★★★★

THE DUPLEX PLANET #97-98 ($1.50 from David Greenberger, PO Box 1230, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866): A collection of questions and answers — David asks the questions and the residents of the Duplex nursing home answer them. These elderly people have a lot to say, and often it's not what you'd expect. #97 is all about music. #98 is a medley, with Walter Kieran playing sax and discussions of zine covers and April Fools Day. (D-12)

★★★★★

EAR OF CORN #1-3 ($1 from Dave, PO Box 2143, Stow, OH 44224): From the sound of it this should be a Midwestern zine, but although they do cover some music from that part of the country they get around as well — the longest interview in #2 is with the Bay Area's Caroliner. #1 has a Big Scary Death interview and sticker plus thoughts on skinheads and straightedge. #2 also has GG Allin and Ism — and of course show reviews. Even a crossword and other fun things to do here. (D-24)

★★★★★

EARTH STAR #65 ($20/yr from PO Box 110, Temple, NH 03084): A "Journal for Personal and Planetary Health" with a strong New Age slant. This is a New Year's wrapup, centered on selections of the best "breakthrough" books, magazines, and music of 1988. There's also an interview with alternative economist Hazel Henderson and notes on current holistic approaches to treating PMS — as well as a bevy of ads for health-care practitioners, crystals, and other resources. (T-59t)

★★★★★

ECHOES 1/89 (10 FIM from PO Box 93, SF-33501 Tampere, FINLAND): A music zine written in Finnish and English and devoted to "Rock'n'roll, doo wop, rhythm & blues, psycho, 60's, garage" and similar music. Plenty of groups in this issue, lots of guys with slicked-back hair and jeans. They say they take payments in Finnish cash only, but will send more information for an IRC. (A5-31r)

★★★★★

ECOSPIRIT Vol. IV #4-Vol. V #1 (Donation from Institute for Ecosophical Studies, c/o Donald St. John, Moravian College, Bethlehem, PA 18018): A short dip into the waters surrounding the development of ecological ideas. #4 is given over to an essay by Mary Evelyn Tucker arguing for a more holistic view of environmental problems; in particular, she points at the connections between war and the state of the environment. Thomas Berry explores "The Cosmology of Religions" in #1. (S-10)

★★★★★

EELSKIN COMIX

These guys have apparently been burning the midnight oil lately, 'cause they sent us a whole pile of stuff to be reviewed in this issue. Well, here's the whole pile, all available from 959 Harrison St. #88, Seattle, WA 98109:

•**12-EGG OMELETTE** (50¢ (?)): A collection of short strips with art by main Eelskin honcho Brian Horst. There's a few pages about Arbo, the 5-year-old space explorer, and then much on the Grapes of Wrath, a bunch of no-good fruits. (S-8)

•**EELSKIN COMICS** #10 (50¢): Pretty funny stuff this time around, and with more artistic talent than I remember in back issues of this small press comic. The main strip here is Robin Trash's "Curse Badly", an extended self-referential romp that combines old jokes and new ideas with the artist's pen to have a lot of fun in a few pages. (HL-20)

•**NOBODY'S COMIX!!** (49¢): Not a lot here, but the "Cartooning is Heck" takeoff on Matt Groening's work is worth the price of admission. (S-8)

•**SOLECISM** #1 (25¢): A collection of collages and art pieces, with two pages of reviews of bad music dropped in the middle. A change of pace for Eelskin, though I'm not sure whether it's an improvement. (D-12)

•**THE UNFINISHABLE FLETCH** (50¢ (?)): The editor's note says it all: "The artwork featured here was meant to be finished for Eelskin Comix, but Mr. Fletch had an unfortunate accident. He broke his brain. I think." The result is a collection of single panel drawings and comics that fade away rather than coming to any conclusion. Still some pretty funny stuff here. (HL-8)

★★★★★

EL DJARIDA X-Tra Issue (1 IRC from Guttorm, Box 4536 Kalvskinnet, 7002 Trondheim, NORWAY): A cardstock mini announcing the rebirth of this mailart magazine. Printed in three colors, it features works from a dozen or so artists, ranging from situationist analysis to photocopied manipulations. Includes an editorial on future plans. (M-16r)

★★★★★

THE ELEVENTH ST. RUSE Vol. 2 #7 ($1/4 issues from 322 E. 11 St. #23, New York, NY 10003): A crazy little humor zine that seems to come from a world of its own. This issue includes "interviews" with Salman Rushdie and the Man Who Invented Crack, plus a novel-in-regress and some vocabulary builders. (S-4)

★★★★★

ELDRITCH SCIENCE #3 ($10/4 issues from George Phillies, 87-6 Park Ave., Worcester, MA 01605): A zine of short science fiction and fantasy, including some poetry. The centerpiece of #3 is a longish fantasy from Rupert Fitzmont Cabot IV, featuring an unlikely-appearing protagonist. I rather liked Michael Peralta's "Icarus Unbound", a poem in the rigid rhyming sestina form. (S-31t)

★★★★★

EMERALD CITY COMIX AND STORIES #8-9 ($5.25/6 issues from PO Box 95402, Seattle, WA 98145-2402): A nice tabloid of comics with exceptional art. Featured strips include Burt Dodson's "Nuke" and editor Nils Osmar's serialized "Star Ways!" Mike Tackett's comments on modern life are amusing as well. They also print short reviews (some in comic form) and fiction. (T-8t)

★★★★★

EMPIRE MONTHLY #8-10 ($3 from Patrick Daly, 4350 N. Cicero, Chicago, IL 60641): Pat runs Empire Records, a used record store, and manages to find time to put out this music zine on the side. It's mostly focused on the Chicago underground scene, though there is the occasional story on some rock group still worth listening to now and then: Thin Lizzy in #8, for example. There's a long Rapeman interview in #9 and lots of bargain bin reviews in #10. Nice photos & good production too. (S-18t)

★★★★★

THE END (75¢ *cash/MO* from Gary Wray, 23118, Vanowen, West Hills, CA 91307): An apocalyptic minicomic by Gary and Dennis Worden. It features all our favorite world-ending fantasies: robots and science run amok, atomic war, even giant asteroids hitting the earth. The stuff of surrealistic nightmares. (M-8)

★★★★★

ENVIRONMENTAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 1 #3 ($1 (?) from Students for Environmental Concerns, 1001 S. Wright St., Champaign, IL 61820): A publication that gives me hope for the students of at least one university. This is a basic consciousness-raising and brainstorming zine for those interested in living without harming the environment. They interview Ernest Callenbach, discuss alternatives to common plastic packaging, and look briefly at a proposal to start a "model community" with low impact on the world. (S-12t)

★★★★★

EOTU Feb. 1989 ($18/6 issues from 1810 W. State #115, Boise, ID 83702): There used to be in science fiction something called the New Wave. The stories in this literary zine remind me of the best of that movement: gripping, fresh, and inclined to dispense with such niceties as plot or characterization when they were unwanted. In this issue there are several alternative tales of a gritty chivalry, as well as Lorraine Schein's wonderful "Sleeping Westward", a story of tremendous scope and archetypical imagery. (D-72t)

★★★★★

EPHEMERA NEWS Vol. 7 #2 ($25/yr from PO Box 37, Schoharie, NY 12157): The newsletter of the Ephemera Society of America. These folks are in the business of collecting and documenting all manner of things that were never meant to be collected: railroad tickets, trading cards, tin Christmas ornaments, secret decoders, letterheads featuring stoves...you get the idea. Fascinating and well-produced. (S-8t)

★★★★★

EPISTULATIONAL EXSCRAPTS #1: H.H.D.S. (50¢ & a stamp from dbqp, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): A bit of correspondence between publisher Geof Huth and various other language-orineted types, focusing on the town of Horseheads and how it got its name. Includes a rubbing from the Ruins of the Horseheads Brick Company and a garish rubberstamp collage by Julie Fish. (S-2)

★★★★★

ERC NEWSLETTER Feb.-Mar. 1989 ($5-10/yr from PO Box 81, Floyd,, VA 24091): A local zine of community building. The February issue seems larger and more upbeat than those from last fall; perhaps winter weather has given people a good excuse to write and communicate. March announces a wedding, reports on a new LETSystem in the area, and begins serializing an earth-centered creation myth. (S-14)

★★★★★

EROSPIRIT Vol. 4 #2-4 ($2.50 from PO Box 35160, Albuquerque, NM 87176): The Harmonic Convergence is not over. It's still in these pages, along with the Gaia hypothesis, planetary stewardship, and a great many other pieces of New Age work. Editor Julian Spalding is very concerned that it's time for a change, and is trying to get together a critical mass of people who agree. Much better than average New Age fare. Much of #4 is focused on sexuality, with particular attention to androgyny. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE ESSENE SCROLLS 8-8-88 ($3 from All-One-God-Faith!, PO Box 28, Escondido, CA 92025): Subtitled "The Moral ABC", this is a great rant from Dr. Bronner, the man who makes Dr. Bronner's soaps. It's all about his system of "All-One-God-Faith", with detours into conspiracy theory, the failings of rabbis over the millenia, Gorbachev, Mark Spitz, and much more. Makes a great wall-hanging to perplex and possibly enlighten your friends. (O-2t)

★★★★★

ESTUDIO #13 ($12 from Sheila Holtz, The Institute, Box 18, 111 N. 49th St., Philadelphia, PA 19139): "A contributor sponsored alternative arts magazine", this is a fine place to go for stimulating visual (and sometimes verbal) work. Many pages are original drawings, assemblages of photographs and stickers, or other time-consuming work; poetry, collage and hand-colored art also appear. There's an "Annex" section focused on on particular artist (Christian Herman this time around) and mail art news and reviews. Well-done and always exciting. (S-100)

★★★★★

EUCLIDS DELI #1 ($1 from 5219 Meadowbrook Dr., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055): Something just didn't gel in this new music and scene zine, I'm afraid. They hop from show review to ragging on a big record label to "How to be Punk" to record reviews without staying in on place long enough to develop an idea. Lots of enthusiasm, but no focus. (D-12)

★★★★★

EVAPORATING SINEW #1 ($1 from Daniel Faught, PO Box 20427, Seattle, WA 98102): A rather curious psychedelic comic book, centered around a playlet called "Transparent Vertebra". The characters involved are drawn in a rather gruesome biological style, though there are so many small panels crammed in here the details suffer a bit. The plot is rather absurd as well. Reminds me a bit of work by Sloane or Gaither. (D-8)

★★★★★

THE EVENT #29 ($14/4 issues from PO Box 203, Pequannock, NJ 07440): A naturist magazine (that is, one for people who think clothes should be optional) with particular strengths: they do a good job of covering the politics of the nudist and naturist movements, and of keeping folks up to date on organizations and resorts where such things may be safely practiced. Feminism, pornography, and related topics are another mainstay here. (S-42t)

★★★★★

EVERYONE'S BACKYARD Vol. 7 #1 ($25/yr from CCHW, PO Box 926, Arlington, VA 22216): The quarterly newsletter of the Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes, the best source for news on the grassroots "toxics movement" in this country. It's good to know you're not the only one fighting a dump or an incinerator. They give ideas on organizing, the use of science, the law, and lots of other resources. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE EXODUS STANDARD Vol. 5 #3 (Donation from Exodus International, PO Box 2121, San Rafael, CA 94912): The masthead says it all: "Equipping and unifying the Body of Christ to restore wholeness to the homosexual". This is for Christians (straight and "ex-gay") determined to lead others out of sin — an uncomfortably paternalistic and homophobic concept to me, but perhaps not to others. They offer both advice on evangelism and news on ministries old and new involved in this movement. (S-12t)

★★★★★

EXPERIMENTAL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS Vol. IV #5-6 ($3.50 from PO Box 784, Nicasio, CA 94946): A fascinating collection of strange and wonderful musical instruments. In #5 there's one article on making eggshell ocarinas, another on obscure and unusual stringed instruments, and a look at the frequency scales used in the west. Construction notes and interesting letters appear along with lots of pics and ideas. #6 ranges from found instruments to clay bells to three-necked guitars and other stringed esoterica. (S-24r)

★★★★★

EXTORTION #6 ($1.50 from Aaron, 407 W. Elm, Carbondale, IL 62901): A cheery little music zine that's associated with the Thrashers Digest tape label (I'm sure they'll send you a catalog with your copy). In #6 they interview Moral Crux, Eyeball, Stikky, and more, plus run some silly fiction, marginal art, and reviews. They're looking for a condom reviewer. (S-20r)

★★★★★

EXTRAORDINARY SCIENCE Vol. 1 #1 ($8.95 from High Energy Enterprises, PO Box 5636, Security, CO 80931): A curious mix of science and speculation. The contents range from a solid-looking plan for measuring the strength of high-voltage fields to sheer babble on "scalar wave technology." Other topics include superluminal information transmission, an attempt to recreate Tesla's experiments (lots of nice pictures with this one) and acupuncture for drug detoxification. A free info packet is also available. (S-40t)

★★★★★

EXTROPY #2-3 ($6/yr from Tom Bell or Max O'Connor, 1129 W. 30th St. #8, Los Angeles, CA 90007): This is for folks waiting to take a bold technological leap into a future of life extension, nanotechnology, meme control and ultimately migration into non-biological brains. Though sometimes too rationalistic and technophilic for me, it does make entertaining reading, and the contents range from a life extentionist's recipe for a fast breakfast to a proposed new moral system ("Wisdomism") for the dawning age. #3 gets into love, sex and drugs, coming out in favor of all three of these at some length. A good roundup of news and ideas. (HL-32t)

★★★★★

EYEWASH Vol. 1 #1 ($1 (?) from PO Box 21584, Washington, DC 20009): A new idea in a community visual arts bulletin: peer review. The majority of the contents here are reviews of shows written by other artists, providing (hopefully) constructive criticism. This introductory issue is well done, with a professional feel and even a few reproductions of the art in question. (T-8t)

★★★★★

FACE MAGAZINE Vol. 1 #14 ($35/yr from 10 Beach St., Portland, ME 04101): An eye on what's going on in Portland, with an emphasis on the music and eating scenes (an extensive list of local restaurants graces the "Bill of Fare" pages). Besides publishing interviews and short reviews, they make space for features; in #14, they asked the readers to review the past year and many of them did, writing about everything from albums to ice cream. (T-20t)

★★★★★

FACE IT #13-16 ($2.50 from PO Box 719, Corte Madera, CA 94925): A music tabloid covering California from the Bay Area north. Lots of long-haired young men with smooth chests here, but besides the metal types they get around a bit. Death Angel, Jetboy, Legal Reins, Pearl Harbour are a few of the bands in these issues, along with media coverage and cartoons from Ace Backwords. (T-20t)

★★★★★

FANDOM #5 ($2 from Matt Kanaracus, 273 Babcock St. #806, Boston, MA 02215): A comics news journal, with a nice desktop-publishing look to it. There's not a whole lot of news, but what there is is presented well. They also publish some original comics and lots of reviews, and the latter are mostly positive and constructive. (HL-38t)

★★★★★

THE FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTIONEER'S GUIDE Vol. 1 #5 ($2 from 6827 Cerro Bajo, San Antonio, TX 78239): Besides basic information (when/where/rates/art & dealers info) on about 150 conventions, this one is starting to include more feature articles. These range from a small profile of a convention GoH to a more in-depth look at Worldcon bidding. A quickly-growing reference, though still far from exhaustive. (D-30)

★★★★★

FAN'TOONS #28 ($1.50 from Edd Vick, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105): A minizine from Edd, which combines folks from comics, SF fandom, and other areas (like Paul Weinman's poetry in this issue) in the hopes of some cross-fertilization. Comics and cartoons prevail, but he does sneak some text pieces in. (M-32)

★★★★★

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VACCINE FOR FUTURE SHOCK

FANZINE XING #11 ($1.50 from Liam Brooks, 11439 A. Ptarmigan Dr., Austin, TX 78758): A collection of Liam's strips, some new and some reprinted from other obscure zines. I still enjoy his "Jake the Rabbit" the most — Jake is a sort of loser who is quite a sympathetic character. There's also other stuff here, from artists to car freaks. (D-24)

★★★★★

FARCE Vol. 1 #4 ($1 from The Paper Plant, PO Box 543, Raleigh, NC 27602): A lovely little newsletter for the arts in Raleigh, with substantial attention paid to form as well as content. They print local news, history and original works of poetry and short prose, as well as ads of interest. For $10 you can get a set of the first 4 issues in a hand-laid letterpress folio, an impressive item in itself. (S-16t)

★★★★★

FARMER BOB'S SOMETIMES NEWS & LOCAL REVIEW Vol. 1 #2-3 (from 1075 Olive Dr. #16, Davis, CA 95616): A community paper for Davis and all of Yolo County. They're ranging pretty widely with the first couple of issues, talking to local characters, cruising the backroads looking for interesting spots, and discussing the problems of styrofoam in #2. #3 looks at the struggle to save the "Sustainable Research Area" at the university (a sort of ecotopian preserve, including housing) and profiles a local mail carrier. (T-16t)

★★★★★

FELL SWOOP #16 ($6/yr from XJ Dailey, 1521 N. Lopez St., New Orleans, LA 70119): A litmag that's delightfully different from the usual conventions. This issue leads off with Lisa Herskovits writing about Barbie Dolls and their deep place in her psyche; almost frighteningly honest. Later on there's an uncredited "Swimmer's Guide to Contemporary Poetry" which is quite funny as well as works from Weinman, Formento and more. (S-17)

★★★★★

FENICI #6 (1200 pts. from Francesc Vidal, PO Box 430, 43200 Reus, SPAIN): A beautiful large-format arts magazine that covers everything from music to sculpture, on both a personal (interviews with artists) and theoretical level. #6 includes a talk with Conrad Schnitzler, the aesthetics of Spanish sculpture, essays on paradox and progress, and much more. It includes as inserts a multilingual translation (English included) and a record, "La Zona", of eerie modern Spanish instrumental compositions. Slick paper, lots of photos, very flashy for your coffee table. (O-84t & LP)

★★★★★

THE FICTION REVIEW Vol. 2 #3 ($15/4 issues from PO Box 12268, Seattle, WA 98102): Wild and wooly writing in a literary vein. The folks here take their characters through all sorts of transformations, from the scary death in Jonathan London's "What Happens" to the incredible adventures in Robert McBrearty's "The Big Prayer". Interesting stuff, a bit cockamamie in places, but well-written and attention-getting. (HL-36t)

★★★★★

FILE 13 #3 (45 ¢ from Mark Lo, PO Box 548, Lincroft, NJ 07738): Mark apologizes for the lack of interviews in this issue — only Gary Waleik of Big Dipper lets himself get caught — but basically this is a solid look at new music, full of quiet but informative record and show reviews. There's also some curious filler, like the report on Japanese fast food. (S-20t)

★★★★★

FILM

This seems to be an increasingly popular topic in zinedom these days (or else I'm getting increasingly familiar with filmzines, take your pick). Though most of these tend towards the underside of the movies, there's a wide range, as you'll see below.

•**ANIMATION MAGAZINE** Vol. 2 #3 ($3.50 from PO Box 25547, Los Angeles, CA 90025): A very large and slick magazine devoted to animated cartoons and feature films. This issue doubles as the program for the Third Los Angeles International Animation Celebration, and so contains lots of stuff on the films premiered there and various folks being honored. Impressive but very specialized. (S-116t)

•**CAPRA** 76-77 ($2 from Marc C. Reed, PO Box 18293, Milwaukee, WI 53218): An amateur press association for relatively serious fans of the cinema that's healthy and interesting. #76 leads off with a do-it-yourself colorization cover, and inside are such fun things as a guide to Warner Brothers cartoon jokes from Richard Yokum, an investigation of the Ecology of the Toon by Prof. Phineas J. Whoopee, and even a complete screenplay by Wes Caefer. (S-135)

•**CRIMSON CELLULOID** #1C ($1 — but better send postage too — from 312 Freat North Rd., Abbotsford, 2046 NSW, AUSTRALIA): Proof that the obsession with gore movies is international. This is an interim issue between larger magazines, and is composed primarily of movie reviews — rated on laughs, gore, and sex. (A4-8)

•**ECCO** #6-7 ($1.25 from PO Box 65742, Washington, DC 20035): A review that concentrates on obscure and disgusting video releases, with staples being soft porn, torture, and murder. They manage to write lengthy and readable critiques on these things, which is no mean feat. The Zodiac Killer, Mondo New York, and a gem called "Slave Trade in the World Today" appear in these issues. (S-8t)

•**FILMCLIPS** Vol. 1 #2 ($2 from PO Box 1335, New York, NY 10013): "The Movie Memorabilia Classifieds" has garnered enough interest after one issue to raise its press run to 1000, despite not having too many advertisers yet. But with that kind of numbers you can reach a fair number of folks if you want to buy or sell movie rarities, scripts, publicity stills, or whatever. (S-6t)

•**FILMTHREAT** #18 ($16/6 issues from PO Box 951, Royal Oak, MI 48068): The bad boy of film zines, going so far as to ridicule letters from readers every time around. Featured in this issue are Mink Stole, a preview of the Batman movie, a Tom Waits interview, and a disgusting photo-story on the "California Runs". Drunken Toronto Film Festival coverage helps to tie it all together, along with ads for all sorts of disgusting underground movies. (S-66t)

•**GRIND** Vol. 1 #9-11 (50 ¢ from Richard Green, PO Box 32, Old Bridge, NJ 08857): An opinionated one-sheeter tha's fun to read. #9 takes a first look at the exploitation films of the new year and mostly finds them wanting. #11 pans some more serious movies, including *Dream a Little Dream*. (S-2)

•**GRINDHOUSE** #2 ($5/yr from J. Adler, c/o SLP, PO Box 7460, Grand Central Stn., New York, NY 10163-6030): This one looks just like you'd imagine a zine from demented film junkies would: scrawly angry handwriting that threatens to leap off the page and phone the crisis hotline at any second. The editors don't keep their views under wraps, instead ripping into the movies with all the grace of a school of piranhas. #2 includes Let's Scare Jessica To Death, Halloween IV, and Cannibal Holocaust among other classics. (D-12)

•**GRINDHOUSE** #4 (50¢ from Vincent Basilicato, 159 McDole Rd., Ellenville, NY 12428): No relation to the above, this focuses on a somewhat better class of movies. #4 includes a look back at some of the classic monster (Frankenstein/Dracula/Wolfman) movies, a Salvador Dali movie, and even a bit of music in the form of The Normal's "Warm Leatherette" and "T.V.O.D.". Off the beaten path without being boring. (D-24r)

•**HI-TECH TERROR** #40-42 ($6/12 issues from Craig Ledbetter, PO Box 5367, Kingwood, TX 77325): This one is pretty slight, but Craig does it for fun and that's what he wants. The movies here tend to be along the lines of "Cannibal Terror" or "Doom Asylum" (both in #40). (D-7r)

•**IT'S ONLY A MOVIE** Vol. 4 #1-2 ($14/yr from Michael Flores, Psychotronic Film Society, PO Box 14683, Chicago, IL 60614-0683): This is for critically ignored culture in general, not just movies: rap music, comic books, records, books about Ed Gein, 3-D movies...it's all here. Get in touch if you're in the Chicago area; they frequently hold screenings and other events. (D-22t)

•**MONSTER** #5-9 (50¢ from MPO Box 67, Oberlin, OH 44074-0067): A single-sheeter which focuses on monster movies. #5 complains about movies which seem to exist solely to show off the SFX. #7 is devoted to reviewing a handful of "island monster" movies. #8 features a poster of "The She Creature" and some classic b&w reviews. (S-4t)

•**MOVIE COLLECTOR'S WORLD** #302-311 ($25/26 issues from PO Box 309, Fraser, MI 48026): A tabloid for folks interested in the ephemera associated with movies: lobby cards, posters, handbills, books, and so on. Much of this is taken up by ads from folks wanting to buy and sell, but there's also industry news, a fan club directory, and feature articles. (T-36t)

•**SLIMETIME** #24-25 (50 ¢ from Steve Puchalski, 1108 E. Genessee St. #103, Syracuse, NY 13210): One of my favorite video zines, since Steve and crew aren't afraid to call a turkey a turkey. And they do seem to view a lot of turkeys, from "C.C. and Company" (a biker film starring Joe Namath and Ann-Margret) to "Dr. Phibes Rises Again". Hilarious and informative. (S-8r)

•**SHEER FILTH** #5 ($2 from David Flint, 39 Holly Street, Offerton, Stockport, SK1 4DP, ENGLAND): Not exclusively a film zine, as they also review books and even some music — but unless it's quite sleazy or exploitative, they probably don't want to know about it. Lots of bared breasts here, plus cult killers, GG Allin, and much more trash. (A5-24r)

•**SUBHUMAN** #12 ($3/2 issues from 1509 W. St. Mary, Lafayette, LA 70506): Bills itself as "America's strangest film fanzine" and it may well be right. They review things no one else even mentions, like the parody "Forced Entry", plus run other novel stuff like Kris Gilpin's own silly trash script. Their pix also tend to be the most blatantly sexual or violent of the zines here. (D-16t)

•**A TASTE OF BILE** #VI ($3/6 issues from Keith Brewer, PO Box 7150, Waco, TX 76714): This video movie review has the distinction of being the first of its genre that I've seen pan *Communion in Room 410*. They also branch out far enough to review a few bits of music. The killer collaged layout is reminiscent of punkzines but splatter films still seem to be the main focus. (S-6r)

•**TEMPLE OF SCHLOCK** #15 ($4.50/6 issues from Paul DeCirce, 409 Hixson Ave., Syracuse, NY 13206): A relatively literate horror film zine. #15 includes a eulogy for the recently-departed John Carradine, and every issue has Dave Szurek writing about whatever he pleases. #16 has Hollywood Chainsaw Hookers and a collection of howlingly bad dialogue from various films. (D-12r)

•**THEY WON'T STAY DEAD!** #1-2 ($1 from B. Johnson, 11 Werner Rd., Greenville, PA 16125): #1 contains an alphabetical guide to the editor's favorite films, from Abominable Dr. Phibes through Killer Shrews and Queen of Blood to Zontar, the thing from Venus. #2 is devoted to biker films, from Marlon Brando to Evel Knievel. Sort of lightweight but fun. (D-12)

•**VIDEO VOICE** #10 ($3.65 from Tim Paxton, MPO Box 67, Oberlin, OH 44074-0067): A nice little movie zine that's made big strides the last few issues to the point where it can be taken seriously as a national publication.

This issue features some nifty Godzilla photos, interviews with Herschel Gordon Lewis and Forry Ackerman, and a truckload of reviews. Fun and obviously excited by video. (S-20t)

•**WE ARE THE WEIRD** Vol. V #1 ($6/6 issues from Paladin Corp., PO Box 2002, Dallas, TX 75221): Movie coverage from the one and only Joe Bob Briggs. In this issue he reviews "The Last Temptation of Christ" and prints reader letters on why their town is the best or the worst in America. He also gives away tons of movie promo items to bona-fide subscribers. Sure, the man has the consciousness of a neanderthal, but he's a *funny* neanderthal. (T-8t)

★★★★★

FILTH #1 (75¢ from Sanford, Box 851, 715 Stadium Dr., San Antonio, TX 78284): A new fanzine with an international music focus. This intro issue includes Yugoslavia's thrash band Christ and France's Scraps, as well as a scene report from Birmingham, England. There are also a couple of US bands including Trouser Trout, as well as poetry, film reviews, and all sorts of collaged stuff. (S-28t)

★★★★★

THE FINAL FRONTIER #51 ($1.50 or so from Colin Hinz, 349 West St. North #3, Orillia, ONT L3V 5E1, CANADA): An amateur press association that comes from the SF community but hasn't yet figured out where it's going. Right now most of the contents are general interest chit-chat, with some bias towards comics and silliness. Could use some active new members. (S-29)

★★★★★

THE FINE LINE ($10/yr from The Alliance, 826 Euclid Ave., Syracuse, NY 13210): These folks are into claiming their basic human rights despite one big problem: being stigmatized as mental patients. It seems obvious from reading their newsletter that they are people too, not helpless or dangerous kooks that need to be shut up somewhere and forgotten. Apparently their advocacy efforts are making progress, but they could still use help and understanding. (S-18)

★★★★★

F.I.O.T. #6-7 (SASE from Daniel Ust, 321 Maple St. #49, Perth Amboy, NJ 08861): With the initials standing for "Freedom In Our Time", this one plugs itself as a "mini-magazine of alternative ideas." There's a basically libertarian point of view here, a slapdash layout, and not much else. A place where anarchist rants, plugs for life-extension, and exhortations to not be a couch potato may make themselves heard. (D-4)

★★★★★

FIRST PRINCIPLES Vol. 14 #1 ($15/yr from CNSS, 122 Maryland Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002): A publication of the Center for National Security Studies directed towards the interface between national security and civil liberties. This issue looks at the Oliver North trial and its meaning for the future of covert operations, the War Powers Act, and recent problems with the McCarran-Walter Act. (S-16t)

★★★★★

FIVE CENTS' WORTH Jan.-Mar. 1989 (50 ¢ from Gregory Nicoll, PO Box 48254, Atlanta, GA 30362): I almost put this in the film section because Greg reviews a lot of silly VCR movies (in a style reminiscent of Joe-Bob Briggs), but he also gets into other things, chiefly science fiction, beer, and Volkswagens. This is in the personalzine tradition, and alternates between vaguely grating and (more often) outrageously entertaining. (S-10)

★★★★★

FLACCID #5 ($1.50 stamps/check from Lori Carlson, 717 SW 4th #9, Corvallis, OR 97333-4424): A music zine with no editorial presence — I guess they figure that if you can't dope it out from the interviews and reviews, tough. This time there's a big chunk of space devoted to Mark "My Dad Is Dead" Edwards, lesser chats with Pat Thomas and Dave Rick, and lots of record reviews, most in the college radio neck of the woods. (S-29t)

★★★★★

FLASH TABLOID ($1 (?) from PO Box 645, Silver Springs, FL 32688): These folks sent three different issues but they're all un-numbered. That's OK, since they all have a fine mix of counterculture materials from the sixties to the present: underground medical therapies, pro-drug stuff, R. Cobb cartoons, government foibles, op art, and more. Three parts nostalgia and one part amusement. If you don't want to risk any cash, they'll send you a version reduced to minicomic size for an SASE. (HL-32)

★★★★★

FLESH AND BONES #8 ($3 from 351 Beechwood Ave., Middlesex, NJ 08846): Centered on psychedelic and garage music but veering off into all sorts of lowlife scum fascinations, **F&B** is a definite experience. On the musical side this issue has Hawkwind, Tater Totz, Hickoids, Sloth, Gwar and more. Meanwhile there are comics, mondo movie reviews, 1950's ads and nudie shots, gory art, and other curious things making the zine burst at its seams. A long and screwy read. (S-80r)

★★★★★

FLOTSAMANDBEDLAM #1 ($2 & 2 stamps from Jason Chionsini, 701 Kent NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102): A mix of collage, rants and poetry designed to show "perceptions of the big picture". It's all vaguely unsettling, from the cop on the beat to the heritage of Dali and Breton. Very elliptic for the most part, more concerned to convey a feeling than to argue politics. (HL-28)

★★★★★

THE FLOWERING TREE Winter 1988 ($1.50 from Good Medicine Society, HC 62, Box 378, Old Joe, AR 72658): This one appears to be some combination of Native American and New Age beliefs. They present some myths and stories, some railing about professional dietitians trying to monopolize the field, and some news on upcoming activities. They also offer a number of courses by mail. (S-12)

★★★★★

FLUID NOOZ #1 ($1 from Jason Spiro, PO Box 12, Slingerlands, NY 12159): An unfocused bit of creativity and opinions. Topics range from music (No Exit interview) to the Church of the SubGenius to political ranting ("The Absurd Tyranny of Urinalysis"). They also publish poetry and short fiction. as well as record reviews. Could develop in almost any direction. (S-12)

★★★★★

FOREFRONT #8 (75¢ from 307 Crestview Rd., Columbus, OH 43202): A music zine that covers more than just the sound. Besides interviews with All, Screaming Trees, The Magnolias and more, they have a relatively large editorial content. Articles discuss the ridiculous law enforcement at a local venue, the business slant of the New Music Seminar, AIDS, the role of the underground in society, and more. Generally thoughtful, not flashy but solid. (S-36)

★★★★★

FORT COLLINS COMIC NEWS Vol. 1 #45-52 ($1 (?) from 2190 W. Drake #230, Fort Collins, CO 80526): They hand out 10,000 copies locally but of course neglect to put a subscription price on it. Labelled "Comic Commentary for the Intellectually Inclined", they feature mostly big names like Larsen, Groening, Skelly, Watterson and more. Loads of laughs, lots of politics. (T-12t)

★★★★★

FOR YOUR SKULL #18 (25¢ & a stamp from 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): Fun underground artwork with lots of skulls and stuff. Carrie, who does the major work here, also interviews some other underground artists and reviews music and local free papers. Small and comfy but fun. (D-16)

★★★★★

FOSFAX #135-138 ($2 from FOSFA, PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281): A growing science fiction fanzine that is distinctive mainly for its incredible lettercol, featuring dozens of carefully-reasoned arguments from fen and pros alike about topics of the day. There's also fanzine and book reviews, short articles and (in #135) the rare piece of fan fiction. In #137 Taral provides a wonderful bibliography on fan history, flawed only by the lack of hints on how to find the things listed. Recommended. (S-42r)

★★★★★

FOSTER CHILD Spring 1989 ($1.50 & 65¢ postage from 7635 Marcie Ct., Glen Burnie, MD 21061): A nice quiet music zine that concentrates on rock, psychedelia, folk-rock and other more accessible or listenable genres. The main story in this issue is an interview with Sky Saxon, backed up by one with Scrawl and a lot of record reviews. (HL-39)

★★★★★

FOURTH REICH UPDATE #3 ($1 from Dave Collins, PO Box 536, Rustburg, VA 24588): Freethought from the heart of Falwell-land. Not surprisingly Dave keeps close track of ol' Jerry's activities, together with those of other Fundamentalists. This issue also contains a look at the history of Christianity and tries to point out that pagans were not necessarily bloodsucking creeps. (D-20r)

★★★★★

FRANK'S ZINE #1 ($1 cash/stamps or women's shoes from 4417 18th Ave. #166, Brooklyn, NY 11204): A dense collection of clippings and pictures from the seamy side of our culture. Major topics include guns, crime, sex, murder, fetishism, and drugs. Read snippets about FBI agents getting blown away, custom gunsmithing, low budget far-out porno films, and more — if you care to. (S-46)

★★★★★

FREE AIR! ($1.50 (?) from Derby Luncheon, 9 Dunning St. #3A, Brunswick, ME 04011): Subtitled "Notes toward a Theory of Alternative Radio", this is meant to be a primer for new staff at college radio stations. It's not a technical manual but rather an inspirational essay, arguing that we've not yet plumbed the possibilities of noncommercial radio and so should try things other than slavishly imitating the mainstream. Should be required reading at some college stations I know. (HL-17)

★★★★★

FREEDOM NETWORK NEWS #20-21 ($20/yr from 9308 Farmington Dr., Richmond, VA 23229): The newsletter of Libertarian International, a worldwide group promoting libertarian ideas of voluntary exchange and free trade. They print news bits from all over, help organize conferences and network people together, and provide a forum for some interesting ideas. Terry Inman contributes a history of various student groups in the movement to #21. They also maintain quite a stock of pamphlets and whatnot for recruiting purposes. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE FREEDOM SOCIALIST Vol. 11 #2 ($5/yr from 5018 Ranier Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98118): Though they call themselves the "Voice of Revolutionary Feminism", these folks are basically Trotskyites who have had the sense to try to bring the modern dispossessed into their circles: Women, people of color, and Chicanos, for example. This issue features more news of their court battle to keep membership records confidential, notes on Trotsky's image in the USSR, and the final installment of a long series on the Chicano struggle. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE FREEDOM WRITER Vol. VI #1-2 (Contribution from Simon, Porteus & Associates, Inc., PO Box 589, Great Barrington, MA 01230): A small newsletter which looks at the interactions of church and state from the point of view of wanting churches to not direct society. #1 focuses on the issue of blacklisting musicians, reporting a wide variety of efforts in that direction. #2 features an interview with Madalyn O'Hair. (S-4t)

★★★★★

FREE INQUIRY Vol. 9 #1 ($5 from PO Box 5, Buffalo, NY 14215-0005): Secular Humanist and proud of it, this magazine is a class act. Rather than spend all their time making fun of or arguing with theists, they choose to explore major issues in depth. This time it's active voluntary euthanasia — death with dignity — and the scholars in their special section make an impressive case for it. Other topics include Nietzsche, relations of humanism with the Vatican, and an interview with Steve Allen. Subscriptions also include the **SECULAR HUMANIST BULLETIN**, with news bits and networking info. (S-66t)

★★★★★

FREETHOUGHT TODAY Vol. 5 #10 ($2 from Freedom From Religion Foundation, PO Box 750, Madison, WI 53701): An aggressively atheist publication that argues for hardcore separation of church and state. There's something a bit discomforting in their almost-gloating pages of news on clergy child molesters, but it's balanced by the essays from members who are tired of having crosses rubbed in their faces. For the outspoken freethinker only. (T-16t)

★★★★★

FROM THE BELLY OF THE BEAST #1 ($1 (?) from Art Thompson, 356 W. 34th St. #929, New York, NY 10001-2401): A mini-sketchbook with sharp, harsh drawings from the streets. The subjects are unexceptional: a coffee cup, half a shoe, a candle flame, a frowning face. They're executed with thick lines that seems to make them quite portentous despite this. (M-20)

★★★★★

FROM THE RUBBLE #1 ($1 (?) from Polaris Press, PO Box 196, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522): A new collection of xerographic art, collages, and related matters. Founded by John Kelly and Brendan Donegan to print works that don't fit their regular magazines, it's open to submission. Many of the images in this first issue seem to deal with the phoniness of facades. (D-20)

★★★★★

FRONT LINE NEWS #1 ($25/yr from NORML of NJ, PO Box 4224, Clifton, NJ 077012): A new state-level publication from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws — in other words, people who think smoking pot isn't so bad. The premiere issue contains the latest legal notes, stories of true busts, and suggestions on how to become active in the fight to stop the repression of this drug. (S-12t)

★★★★★

FROSTBITE FALLS FAR-FLUNG FLIER Vol. 3 #3 ($1.25 from Charles Ulrich, c/o Swick, 1215-D Palomas SE, Albuquerque, NM 87108): A newsletter devoted to the great cartoon characters of Jay Ward. Most of the attention here is on Rocky and Bullwinkle (plus folks like Boris Badenov), but other cartoons creep in now and then. Loads of trivia and fun facts. (S-10)

★★★★★

FRUMP UPDATE Vol. 4 #11-Vol. 5 #2 ($9.98/yr from National Frumps of America, PO Box 1047, Winter Park, FL 32790): A newsletter and club for just plain folks, anti-Yuppies, in short, frumps. They publish recipes for Koolaid cake and crown roast of frankfurters, unbelievably kitschy arts and crafts, and a variety of frump news. Tongue in cheek? Who knows. (S-8)

★★★★★

FUCK THE TORIES #6 (The Usual from Judith Hanna & Joseph Nicholas, 22 Denbigh St., Pimlico, London SW1V 2ER, ENGLAND): A politically-aware science fiction fanzine with rather radical views — something of a rarity in the field. This time around Judith discusses food and life in general, Joseph lists the best songs of 1988 and examines the US rush to war (again), and Mike Shearing reveals even more astounding facts about the Kennedy assassination. Fen with some memory will be pleased to see an ornithopter article from Leigh Edmonds as well. (A4-21)

★★★★★

FUTURE Vol. 5 #4-7 ($2 from PO Box 228, Butte, ND 58723): A journal of new ideas looking to make the world a better place. They also publish an extensive calendar of alternative conferences and events in each issue. #5 has a lot about farming, bioregions and the Greenhouse effect, and also reports on an accident at a food irradiation facility that I hadn't heard about before. #6 examines the drawbacks of most brownbag lunches. (S-12)

★★★★★

FUZZ BUZZ ($1 from Lively Arts, PO Box 4906, San Diego, CA 92104): The publication of the fan club for the Fuzztones, purveyors of psychedelic music. It includes lots of photos, tour and gig reports, a silly comic, and news about the group. (D-20t)

★★★★★

GAJOOB #2 ($1 from Bryan Baker, PO Box 3201, Salt Lake City, UT 84110): Mostly a music zine, but it goes off on tangents as far as reprinting summaries of the **WEEKLY WORLD NEWS**. There's a distinctive graphic design about it that's quite nice, and serves well for stories on bands like Theatre of Ice and Ipso Facto. Other features include letters, a paean to four-track recording, and selected zine reviews. Very well done, and only a second issue. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE GATE Vol. 4 #4 ($1.25 from Beth Robbins, PO Box 43518, Richmond Heights, OH 44143): A clean and crisp Fortean publication that's written on a more entertaining than technical level. #4 looks at the Nazca drawings, the Beale ciphers, Lizard Men, poltergeists, and much more. Sources are provided for those who want to delve deeper into these odd phenomena. (S-15)

★★★★★

GAY, LESBIAN & BISEXUAL

There seems to be a lot of press from the homosexual community these days, and most of it is pretty good, combining a high level of activism and political consciousness with fun. Here's what came in this quarter:

•**AQUA** #3 ($1 *CASH* from Bru Dye, PO Box 1251, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013): The title is an acronym for "Anarcho Queers Undermining Authority", and this is for a new breed of gay punks who don't want to get into the stereotypical anti-feminist gay culture they perceive around them. A mix of photos, essays (including a Q&A with someone from J.D.s), safe sex info and ecstatic writing. (D-28r)

•**BEAR** #7 ($26/6 issues & Age Statement from 2215R Market St. #148, San Francisco, CA 94114): An impressive piece of hardcore work "for and about masculine men". Lots of photos of guys with beards and moustaches and other hair in explicit poses are the anchor of this gay-oriented publication, along with fiction, interviews, and plenty of ads, both commercial and personal. Editor Richard Bulger has a nice open personality that's present throughout, and the attention to detail makes this a winner. (D-96t)

•**AU COURANT** Vol. 7 #7 ($34/52 issues from 222 N. 11th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107): A gay and lesbian tabloid for the Delaware Valley. It's got the usual mix of news, resource and calendar listings, and reviews. This issue seems to be rather heavy on legal news, but I haven't seen enough to know if that's normal. Seems to be fairly local-focused. (T-20t)

•**BAY WINDOWS** Vol. 7 #13 ($35/yr from 1523 Washington St., Boston, MA 02118): A weekly tabloid for gays and lesbians in New England. They cover news from this area (A proposed Massachusetts gay civil rights bill gets much attention in this issue, along with the homophobic legislators opposing it), some national and international affairs, and local arts. Though Boston is the hub of this effort, it does get out to other cities as well. (T-36t)

•**COMMUNITY** April 1989 (Donation from Gay & Lesbian Community Center, PO Box 131, Albany, NY 12201): A newsletter for the local Capital District gay & lesbian community. The content is mainly short news bits and local ads and announcements. Steven Seidman contributes an interesting review of attitudes towards homosexuality as portrayed in books from the first decade of the century. (S-8t)

•**EMERGE!** Vol. 3 #4 ($4 from PO Box 581, Kentfield, CA 94914-0581): "A Journal for Christian Scientists Supporting Lesbians and Gay Men", this one has more Christian Science than Gay content — to the point, for example, of discussing the legal strictures governing the church after the passing of Mary Baker Eddy. On the other hand, they do examine the Biblical pronunciations against homosexuality (finding them to be mainly mistranslations) and maintain a list of gay-sensitive Christian Science practitioners, which could come in quite handy for some people. (D-64t)

•**EMPATHY** Vol. 1 #1 (On Request from Michael Mauk, PO Box 1888, Lenoir, NC 28645): "A Newsletter for Professionals Working to End Homophobia", this one is primarily directed at psychologists, but other professions such as teachers and clergy are also represented. This inaugural issue contains a mix of thoughts on stopping homophobia and the extent of the problem. (S-8)

•**EQUAL TIME** #180-182 ($30/yr from Star of the North Publishing Co., 711 W. Lake St. #505, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A "community newspaper" with an emphasis on gay culture and lifestyle issues (though they also feature some medical and legal coverage). #180 features news of several gay rights cases, hassles with the Minneapolis police, and an extensive calendar. (T-20t)

•**FAR-OUT** Jan. 1989 ($1 (?) from The Evergreen State College, Lesbian/Gay Resource Center, CAB 305, Library 3223, Olympia, WA 98505): A college gay newsletter. Most of this is devoted to letting people know what resources are out there, from the Resource Center itself, to ACT-UP, to a roundup of gay fanzines. (S-7t)

•**GAY COMMUNITY NEWS** Vol. 16 #26-38 ($25/yr from 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116): Along with a calendar of Boston-area gay events and acivities, GCN is especially strong in reviews of the media, mostly that from gay presses. They also cover national and local news stories and of course keep up with AIDS. Weekly for 16 years, they can be expected to continue bringing us a good overview of what's going on. #28 has a long article on the health and social problems faced by old lesbians and news of plans for a national lesbian gathering. #29 covers the PWA activist blockade of the Golden Gate Bridge. #30 reports the good news of Karen Thompson's first visit to Sharon Kowalski in 3 1/2 years. #37 has more on the AIDS-syphilis connection and experimental treatment using typhoid vaccine. (T-28t)

•**HOMOCORE** #3 ($1 *CASH* from Tom Jennings, c/o World Power Systems, PO Box 77731, San Francisco, CA 94107): A zine that is both gay and punk and aggressively supportive of personal freedom. This is not about gays everywhere, but about those who are trying to free themselves from repressive institutions rather than trying to join them. #3 includes an interview with the editor of **BOYSVILLE USA** and an article about Clause 28, the legalized homophobia nonsense in Great Britain. (S-32t)

•**THE JAMES WHITE REVIEW** Vol. 6 #3 ($3 from PO Box 3356, Traffic Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55403): A literary journal directed at gay men. The stories don't always have sexual content as their mainspring; the lead this time, Felice Picano's "A Somewhat Imprefect Landing" revolves around a single meeting and a lump of hashish, whirling through the start of the counterculture. J.M. Regan's poem "Weapon Effects on a Wooden Frame House" is also quite moving. (T-16t)

•**J.D.s** #5 ($3 [no checks] from PO Box 1110, Adelaide St. Stn., Toronto, ONT M5C 2K5, CANADA): A vivacious homocore (i.e., centered around gay life & new music) zine with lots of stylish photos of young gay punks. They print song lyrics (and are in the process of getting a homocore tape together), letters from punks of like mind, true-life stories and homocore fiction. Definitely outrageous in spots and ready to fight for what they believe in. (HL-56r)

•**NOTES FROM UNDER THE FLOORBOARDS** Vol. 3 #2 (Trade or perhaps $1 from Lance Swanson, OP Box 1949, Warren, OH 44482-1949): A zine from **APA-LAMBDA**, a watering hole for the writing gay community. Lance discusses social trends, his mail, hot pictures, fried bologna sandwiches — whatever catches his attention. Comes in R-rated and X-rated versions, both with the same clever commentary. (S-9)

•**RFD** #56 ($4.25 from PO Box 68, Liberty, TN 37095): The "Country Journal for Gay Men Everywhere" has recently relocated and seems to be brimming with new energy. They print submissions from many readers, on topics as diverse as prison support, radical fairie gatherings, health and nutrition, book reviews, and more. An impressive and friendly undertaking. (S-69r)

•**THE WISCONSIN LIGHT** Vol. 1 #18 ($15/25 issues from 1843 N. Palmer, Milwaukee, WI 53212): A statewide gay and lesbian paper with a wide range of features: political, cultural, medical and more. One interesting thing not found in most publications of this type is the roundup of world news, with notes on the climate for gays in Singapore and India. This issue came out over the holidays and includes a lot of summing-up of the year just past. (T-16t)

★★★★★

GENII Vol. 52 #4-5 ($2 from PO Box 38068, Los Angeles, CA 90036): "The International Conjurors' Magazine", for practitioners and devotees of magic — stage magic, I suppose I should specify, to distinguish them from the various occult groups I mention. They feature advice to everyone from beginners to the most experience, plans for massive illusions and pictures of how to perform bits of slight of hand, and reviews of current acts and show. The ads are also quite fascinating. Another self-contained world revealed through print. (S-56t)

★★★★★

GESTALT Vol. 1 #4-5 ($2.50 from 426 Clough St., Bowling Green, OH 43402); A literary magazine that's trying to breathe new life into the form, and to some extent succeeding. In #4 there's a great back cover letter/screed from Guy Clark, and inside other works masquerade as letters, diaries or whatever. Poetry and graphics are also used to fill things out. You won't find a lot of tightly plotted stories here rife with characterization, but you will find works to make you chuckle and perhaps think. #5 is a bit more traditional, containing the winners of their short story contest, which are very nice indeed. (S-29t)

★★★★★

GET STUPID #11 ($2 from Fishmonger Grafix Studios, 25 Grant St., Cambridge, MA 02138): A collection of comics and collages which are often far enough for reality to avoid making any great sense. Fishmonger's own stuff in particular tends to feature lots of classic technology coupled with screwball story lines, or even none at all. SubGenial influences creep in and make themselves at home as well. (S-24)

★★★★★

GHOSTS & SCHOLARS #10 ($3 from Richard Fawcett, 61 Teecomwas Dr., Uncasville, CT 06382): Richard is the American agent for this zine of supernatural fiction published in England by Rosemary Pardoe. The stories here are inspired by the work of M.R. James, an erudite writer of fantasy and horror in the early part of the century — after reading the gems here I shall keep an eye out for his work. Alan Lear's "Sported Oak" in particular is a lovely tale, steeped in the old English college tradition and with just the right hint of horror. Very enjoyable reading, including bibliographic and exegetical work as well as new fiction. For an extra $2.50 you can order a copy of the chapbook **THE MOON-GAZER AND ONE OTHER**, with two fine tales in this tradition reprinted from turn-of-the-century issues of **THE CAMBRIDGE REVIEW**. (D-41r)

★★★★★

GIRLIE MAG #1 ($2.50 from PO Box 7118, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): "A femzine for the broad minded" is what they call themselves. Basically, this is humor written by women and aimed at reasonably liberated people — though there tends to be a cutting edge of thought beneath the humor, and they also review movies, books, and music. Funny stuff that avoids both obvious sexism and stridency. #1 is no longer available; $2.50 will guarantee you a copy of #2, which will be twice as large. (S-16t)

★★★★★

GLITCH NEWS Vol. V #1-3 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 4429, Austin, TX 78765): Music coverage from the heart of Texas, with continuing pieces on the recording industry as well as on its products. (Understandable, since Glitch also puts out the excellent Sampler series of Texan bands). #1 is largely interviews with the Wild Seeds and Tony Perez. #2 has the legendary Fat Man on how to prepare your instruments for a recording session. With #3 they've started to add more color and more pages as part of a planned upgrade through 1989. (S-16t)

★★★★★

GNOSIS #11 ($5 from PO Box 14217, San Francisco, CA 94114): A journal which investigates various mystery and occult teachings of the Western world. This time around the focus is on ritual, from whirling dervishes to the transubstantiation of the host to wilderness retreats as rites of passage. Special mention must be made of their growing book review section, which is fast becoming the indispensable way to keep up with the field. (S-64t)

★★★★★

GOING GAGA #2 (50¢ (?) from Gareth Branwyn, 2630 Robert Walker Pl., Arlington, VA 22207): A journal of "art, information, noise" with a dfefinite leaning towards Dada. The editor decries the current detoxification and academic ossification of Dada, while at the same time providing some new ideas, like that of "Dada Surgery" — redefining your own body via the knife. Enjoyable and without wasted words. (HL-8t)

★★★★★

GOOD CLEAN FUN #3 ($2 from Gene Mahoney, PO Box 3392, San Mateo, CA 94403): Gene's own comic strip (with the same title as the zine) leads off here, but it's only part of the fun. Ace Backwords and Granger Davis also get into the artistic act, not to mention the folks writing snide little humorous essays. Deliberately lightweight and good for a few laughs. (S-16)

★★★★★

GOOD DAY SUNSHINE #48 ($2.50 from Liverpool Productions, 397 Edgewood Ave., New Haven, CT 06511-4013): A magazine for Beatles fans and fanatics. #48 is a special convention program issue, for their 25th Anniversary of the first US tour convention. Interviews with folks associated with the Fab Four, news of current projects by once-Beatles, lots of collectors' ads, and much enthusiasm fill this zine. (S-44t)

★★★★★

GOODIES #58-59 ($1.25 & Age Statement from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A minicomic of pinups, sex strips, and improbably busty women from a variety of artists. They make no excuses about pandering and maintain a mostly lighthearted attitude, especially when editor Brad Foster takes the time to poke fun at the genre. (M-12)

★★★★★

G'RAFFITI Mar. 1989 ($5/12 issues [free sample to Mensa members with membership number] from PO Box 16898, San Diego, CA 92116): A friendlier alternative high-intelligence society, for people fed up with the political posturings of Mensa in the San Diego area (basically, they excommunicated a member who dared suggest the national office was keeping too much of the dues). They publish a calendar of social events, humor (better mousetrap plans in this issue), poetry, editorials, and a grab bag of internal politics. Fun to read. (S-23)

★★★★★

GRASSLANDS REVIEW ($1 from Laura Kennelly, English, Box 13706, University of North Texas, Denton, TX 76203): A small journal of creative writing that's the product of a workshop series. The best pieces in here are very good, notably two incidents from Vietnam by Bac thi Eaton. Kathleen Kolodny's "Soldiers" also paints a novel word picture. More craft than plot here in most pieces. (D-55t)

★★★★★

THE GRASSY KNOLLS GAZETTE Vol. 12 #1-Vol. 13 #1 ($10/yr from Cutler Designs, PO Box 1465, Manchester, MA 01944): One of the remaining hardcore assassinologists — as far as I know, the only one still publishing so much on the two Kennedy and the King assassinations. There are also occasional forays into international politics, from the Secret Team to KAL 007. Interesting reading, but it's hard to believe that this one guy can have all the answers. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE GREAT APOLLO BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM DEBATE ON ILLEGAL DRUGS ($2.95 from 1034 E. Windsor, Phoenix, AZ 85006): A selection of messages downloaded from a computer BBS dealing with that perennial topic of debate, drugs. It's more of a shouting match than a debate, actually, pitting mainly Libertarians against hardcore Christian conservatives. A few good points and a lot of fine invective in a multicornered conversation. (S-41)

★★★★★

GREED #6 ($2.95 from PO Box 39020, Washington, DC 20016): A mix of comics and music coverage with a real nice design (though sometimes they go too far; whoever laid out the Naked Raygun interview should be shot. #6 features talks with Bob Burden of **FLAMING CARROT** fame, as well as band of Susans and Wire. There's also a couple of comic strips, a telling of the Daniel Johnston story, and a review of all of Stephen King's books. A very high-class production. (S-64t)

★★★★★

THE GREEN HELL GAZETTE #4-5 ($1 from Jon Drucker, PO Box 6687, Albany, NY 12206): A local alternative paper that prints a wide selection of bizarre and underground writers. Contents range from poetry (lots of Paul Weinman in #4) to one-liners to some music coverage to just plain rants. #5 includes Ed Stamm on anarchy, poetry by Weinman and Alan Catlin, a local media rundown, and news of another postering bust, this time at the local State University. (T-12)

★★★★★

GREEN MULTILOGUE Vol. 3 #6-Vol. 4 #1 ($6 from 390 Jones Ave., Toronto, ONT M4J 3G3): A many-to-many focused on Green issues and a decentralized approach to a better world. Much of #6 is on Canadian Green Party politics and thus of marginal interest to those not into the structured part of the movement, but there's also a very strong and interesting feminist current here which seeks to attack sexism even on the left. Calls for a "Left Green Network" are also examined by people in this issue. In general, this is a good rundown of the various diverse current sof thought in the Green and like-minded movements today. (S-50)

★★★★★

GREEN PERSPECTIVES #14 ($1 from PO Box 111, Burlington, VT 05402): The flagship publication of the "Left Greens", who follow basically along the lines of Murray Bookchin's social ecology. #14 contains some platform proposals for the upcoming National Green Gathering, plus a defense of rationality against Goddess-worship by Janet Biehl. Feisty intellectual battling against heresies. (S-6t)

★★★★★

GREEN REVOLUTION Vol. 45 #3-4 ($1 (?) from School of Living, RD1, Box 185A, Cochranville, PA 19330): These people have been spreading the idea of living simply in harmony with nature since long before the rise of Green parties. They spend much space on economic discussion, but branch out from there. #3 has a report on a large consumers' co-op in Japan. #4 reflects on seed preservation, the "ownership" of the earth, and much more. (S-8t)

★★★★★

GRIS GRIS MALKUTH ($4 from Xexoxial Editions, 1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703): Collaborative writings and pictures from Jake Berry and John Eberly — which puts the work firmly into the experioddica category. The words seem at first to be arranged in no logical order: "...his imposter logic formerly graying symptomatic of viral intonation lever..." is one small snatch. But read and soaked in, bits of the artists' intent comes through, and the result is not unpleasant. The whole is well-packaged and printed in one of the new "Glitch" family of fonts. (O-28t)

★★★★★

GROT #4 ($1 from Jim Testa, 151 First Ave. #A, New York, NY 10003): This one has stopped being **JERSEY BEAT JR.** and developed its own personality and look — and it's another success, just like the parent zine. Interviews in #4 include 7 Seconds, Rattail Grenadier, No Mind and Screeching Weasel. There's also a batch of fanzine, tape, and book reviews. (HL-32t)

★★★★★

GROUND-O #3 ($1 from Thomas Bruce, 634 Rickert Rd, Sellersville, PA 18960): A mix of music, rather sick short fiction, and movies. #3 includes Bullet LaVolta and Trilogy of Terror interviews, record and fanzine reviews, and looks at Pink Flamingoes and the movies of Bela Lugosi. Beware of rather misogynistic attitudes, but if that doesn't bother you, there's a lot here. (S-20)

★★★★★

GROWING #5 (50¢ from Duncan, 4946 W. Pnt. Way, W.V.C., UT 84120): Mostly music, and Utah music at that (at least in the interviews, with bands like Better Way and None Other). There's also some poetry, a weird short story, and some skull-laden illustrations. (D-28r)

★★★★★

GRUB #71 ($2 from Dragonfly Farm, Lake St. Peter, ONT K0L 2K0, CANADA): Hey, you know there are still a lot of hippies and anarchists and other fine alternative folks out in the world, but how do you find them? Well, one way is to get hold of this zine, which takes submissions from all over and binds them up into one thick package of organic farming, local politics, crafts and cafes, cartoons, stories, Christmas cards, and more. A real friendly place to check into, which is also undergoing a resurgence in recent issues. (S-54)

★★★★★

GRUE #9 ($4 from Hell's Kitchen Productions, PO Box 370, Times Square Stn., New York, NY 10108): **GRUE** is growing, up to 96 perfect-bound pages in the latest incarnation. Editor Peggy Nadramia puts together an excellent package of horror shorts and illustrations (nice Gigeresque centerfold from Diabolos Rex in this issue). Robert Price's "Crown of Thorns" and Robert Sampson's "The Pink Place" are the top of this issue, stories of horror far from the usual cliches, well-written and intriguing. (D-96)

★★★★★

GUBBA GUB COMICS #VI-VII (50¢ from 1204 Jenifer St. #2, Madison, WI 53703): The continuing comic adventures of Gud, an amorphous sort of guy who lives in a future populated by fast-food dictators and endless secret police. Fortunately he's found a few allies to help explain things to his little baby brain. It's amazing how much you can put into the single word "Gup" if you're intriguingly well drawn. (D-8)

★★★★★

GUIDELINES Vol. II #1 ($3.50 from PO Box 608, Pittsburg, MO 65724): These folks are in the business of providing an easy way to get multiple writer's guidelines, but the zine itself is fascinating as well. It's basically a roundtable for small press writers and editors to discuss what's publishable and why, how and why things are rejected, and similar topics. Similar in some ways to the FF "Why Publish?" column but more extensive and interactive. (HL-30t)

★★★★★

GUMBY'S WINTER FUN SPECIAL #1 ($2.50 from Comico, 1547 DeKalb St., Norristown, PA 19401): An utterly bizarre adventure featuring Gumby and Pokey, who get into a lot of trouble driving a strange craft beneath the ground, meeting molemen and devils, fighting off Japanese monsters, and generally tripping into one contrived situation after another. The art is lushly detailed, and the story line fit for head-scratching (how *did* they get out of those buckets, anyways?). (S-40)

★★★★★

GUNFIRE #4 ($1 from Gene Temesy, 439 Rivercrest Dr., Piscataway, NJ 08854): This Gun Club zine was formerly **JACK ON FIRE**, but only the name has changed. It's basically news on the band's progress and music, together with interviews with those who are or have been involved in the project — Jim Duckworth in this issue. (S-6r)

★★★★★

HARDWARE #1 ($3 from 710 Adeline St., Trenton, NJ 08611): "The Magazine of SF Technophilia." Editor Jimm Gall apparently yearns for a world "made of plastic, crystal, and wire." They publish stories and poems revolving around this wonderful future technology, with more emphasis on metal than protoplasm. Contributors include Bruce Boston, Paul Di Filippo, and Thomas A. Easton, with especially good illustrations by Jim Shargo. Nice, but not for the technophobe. (HL-44)

© 1989 N.G. McCURNAN

★★★★★

HAM SUPPLEMENTAL (SASE from The Blaster, 137 Burr Rd., San Antonio, TX 78209): Blaster Al Ackerman has taken up the torch thrown down by John Eberly and written another episode of the manic exploits of Ringold Whorson, Gourmet Explorer. This adventure is told with the loathing and nonsense only the Blaster can command. I shudder to think of what could happen should the sport of Whorson stories spread further in zinedom. (D-8r)

★★★★★

HAMMERHEAD #3 ($2 from Matt, 29 Roxy Ave., Edison, NJ 08820): A dedicated metal music zine that's mostly reviews. these are divided into demos and real releases, with plenty of each — and the reviewers aren't afraid to use numerical ratings to help sort out the dogs. There's also a handful of reviews, including Znowhite and Sepultura. Marred somewhat by extremely poor copying. (S-28)

★★★★★

HAPA #5 ($2 from Joe Singer, PO Box 135, Harrison, ID 83833-0135): That stands for Helpful Amateur Publishers Association, and this is an apa for small publishers. I founded it as sort of a follow-on the **HOW TO PUBLISH A FANZINE**, and there's now a dozen or so of us discussing pasteup, post offices, photocopy, taxes, printers, and all the other work of getting your own zine out. There aren't many copies; the best way to be assured of one is to buy a sample and then contribute. (S-23)

★★★★★

THE HAPPY THRASHER #7 ($1 from Tin Ear, 23089 N. Sacramento, Orange, CA 92667): Lots of connections in the thrash and metal music world here. Interviews with Annoyed, Headfirst and Hardcore 918V take center stage, surrounded by record, show and zine reviews. There's also some space devoted to things like free speech and animal rights. (S-24r)

★★★★★

HARDCOPY FOR THE COMMON GOOD Feb.-Mar. 1989 ($1 (?) from PO Box 1562, Troy, NY 12181-1562): Free locally, this new journal is trying to revive the spirit of the 60s without making the same mistakes. They take aim at a wide variety of issues: the environment, politics (local and national), the arts, health, homelessness and more. Reformist rather than revolutionary, and off to a good start. The March issue focuses on the declining state of American education, though not to the exclusion of other issues. (S-37t)

★★★★★

THE HARDCORE #1 (The Usual (?) from Jeremy Denny, 2 Willoughby Grove, London N17 0RS, ENGLAND): A science fiction zine focused on the "hardcore": somewhere near the intersection of hard SF, New Wave, and cyberpunk: "Screaming prose with the afterburners cut in", they say. This issue attempts to define their field, and then mixes comics, short stories and gossip and critiques on major SF books together in a bit of a stew. Enthusiastic about their chosen field, that's for sure. (A4-36)

★★★★★

HARVEST Vol. 9 #3-4 ($11/8 issues from PO Box 228, S. Framingham, MA 01701): A networking pagan publication with a wide range of interests. #3 has a longish article on "Green Medicine" (herbalism) and a whole pile of reviews. #4 has more on Faerie Gardening and a couple people writing on the diversity of paganism. (S-32)

★★★★★

HARVEST FORUM #7 ($15/yr from 22400 Skyline Box 7, La Honda, CA 94020): A journal for folks interested in intentional communities — what used to be called "communes" until people required how much work they took. Contents range from reports on visits to various communities to ideas on how to hold them together and help them grow. Pretty inspiring. (S-18t)

★★★★★

HAWAIIAN PUNCH Mar. 1989 ($1 from 21 Washington Pl. Box 184, New York, NY 10003): Music reviews and appreciations by a crew centered on NYU. Their tastes (and thus articles) run from the obligatory Roy Orbison tribute to Kiss to Elvis Costello to Guns and Roses. They also pan a few things, including the recent spate of boring live albums. Generally well-written but not too underground. (HL-20t)

★★★★★

HEADPUMP #10 (50 ¢ (?) from PO Box 93, Bronx, NY 10461): A cover price of free, but it'll cost them something to copy and mail this puppy. This is mostly art, from human to computer drawings and on to photography. It has a stark look about it, peppered with bits of poetry and short essays, and giving off sort of eerie vibes. Apparently they're real interested in communicating with people who see the world from a fresh perspective. (S-12)

★★★★★

HEALTH EXAMINER: GOLD COAST EDITION Jan.-Apr. 1989 ($12/12 issues from PO Box 4272, Saticoy Stn., Ventura, CA 93004): A monthly which looks into various aspects of health and wholeness. In January, for example, they put out a special issue on eating disorders, while February was focused on learning disabilities. In March they put out a special issue focusing on the play "Storm Reading", written and performed by Neil Marcus, who also happens to be spastic. (S-8t)

★★★★★

HEAVEN BONE #6 ($4.50 from Steven Hirsch, PO Box 486, Chester, NY 10918): A very solid literary magazine replete with craftsmanship and quiet confidence. This shows in a willingness to publish work in traditional and modern modes, and in a presentation that does justice to the works. Standouts include David Memmott's poem "Intimations of the Subtle Body", Barbara Rosen's fiction-with-a-twist "Pentecost", and Jerome Washington's zen-flavored prison meditations. Very enjoyable stuff. (S-48t)

★★★★★

HECKRAISER (25¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520): A very curious and oblique comic, featuring a guy whose head is liberally peppered with razor blades and another who is obsessed with the healthy consequences of drinking milk. Definitely not firing on all cylinders. (D-4)

★★★★★

HELPERS OF PLANET EARTH Apr. 1989 ($2 from PO Box 1, Chicago, IL 60656): "Dedicated to the People who are Dedicated to Good Causes", this one covers a wide ground (though not in too much depth). They're mostly interested in pointing people at useful information, in areas like third world resources, eating well, animal rights, health, environmental affairs, and so on. Lots of addresses here. (S-8t)

★★★★★

HERMIT CRAB #1 (SASE from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): A zine of quiet personal writing, spotlighting Carl's life and growing awareness that things are wrong in the world. He presents some short poetry and an elusive story as well as ideas on Earth First, racism, and writing. (S-7)

★★★★★

HE'S UGLY AND HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS #4-5 (50¢ & $1 respectively from John Bergin, 4503 Washington St., Kansas City, MO 64111): The latest minicomic in this series depicting people trying to get through life despite being shy a few bricks. In #4 it's an introspective trumpet player, who works in a used record store and otherwise just drifts aimlessly. #5 is more arty than ever, with a silver hardcover sprayed with black paint designed to flake away in the course of reading. It features heavily-altered photos of editor Bergin going hogwild in an art performance. (M-16)

★★★★★

HEY BULLDOG #12-16 (SASE from High Improbability International, PO Box 523, Columbia Station, OH 44028-0523): A zine of the increasingly bizarre as Rodney Griffith bares his past and mind to us. #14 and #16 print excerpts from his play "West River Story", a romp through a modern high school focusing on the tension between two characters hip in different ways. (S-2t)

★★★★★

THE HIGH COST OF THE CROSS #2-3 ($1 from Nate, PO Box 12005-632, Bakersfield, CA 93309): A zine that seems to concentrate on music from central California and England (nice interview with Culture Shock touching on the Stonehenge problems in #2) though they do get a bit afield from that. #3 chats with Hermanos Guzanos, Instigators and many more. Also reviews and some mild anti-religious propaganda. (S-24r)

★★★★★

THE HIGHLY UNLIKELY ADVENTURES OF MOE AND DETRITUS #3 (50 ¢ from David Ingersoll, PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402): This time around, the pukoid lead characters get involved iwth a potential suicide on a bridge. They end up preventing the sad occurence, but not intentionally. Dark humor with an attractive visual style and cheesy ads in the back. (M-8)

★★★★★

HIGH SCHOOL IS A WASTELAND #10 (50¢ from Glen Hirabayashi, 9325 Garrison Way, Eden Prairie, MN 55347): Basically music coverage, although Glen also makes room for short opinion pieces, many youth-oriented. In #10 he interviews TFC and Dissent, reports on some live shows, and rounds up a small stack of zines and records to review. (S-16)

★★★★★

HIMALAYAN INSTITUTE QUARTERLY Spring 1989 (On Request from RR1, Box 400, Honesdale, PA 18431): The newsletter and course announcement of the Himalayan Institute, a somewhat westernized yoga teaching center. They publish notes from their founder Swami Rama,as well as lots of course announcements and ads for their books and other services. (S-48t)

★★★★★

HOAX CHAPEL (Variable from RadioPhage, c/o CKDU, 6136 University Ave., Halifax, NS B3H 4J2, CANADA): This is an open-ended item; send cash or trades and the author, Plus Mal Qu'Ils Pensent St. Bane-Jamesly, will send you "as many pages as seems apporpriate". It's page upon page of unparagraphed and disconnected ranting, with influences as diverse as SubGenius and the Canadian military. Anyone who can find linear meaning here is exceptionally odd. (S-??)

★★★★★

HOBO STEW REVIEW #19 ($2 from 236 Kelton St. #14, Allston, MA 02134): It would really be too pretentious to call this "literary" even though the contents are art, poetry, and short stories. It's all too relaxed for that, with the Hobo apparently choosing things to publish by personal taste rather than theme or high literary ideals. The result is a simple and relaxing zine, without too much meat, but what there is is pretty flavorful. (S-13)

★★★★★

HOLIDAY VIRBGIN Jan. 1989 (50 ¢ from 192 E. 19th, Eugene, OR 97401): A minizine that deals with "anything that deviates from tradition and the cultural norm." The January issue features pornography, with altered photographs, snippets of porn writing, and short essays that don't lead very far. Very elusive stuff that hints at more than it says. (M-16r)

★★★★★

HOLOCAUST FUTURE #1 (50¢ from Jeff Gregory, 3204 W. Chadwick Ln., Peoria, IL 61614): A collection of collages and ramblings from the editor and a few friends. Topics range from politics to insanity to advertising, though nothing is covered in depth. No focus here and not enough development to be interesting other than visually. (S-9)

★★★★★

HOLY KATOOT PUBS #2 (50¢ & a stamp from PO Box 4714, San Diego, CA 92104): A cute little minicomic of single-panel gags and written jokes. Some of this is pretty thoughtful humor (as with the comparison of pioneers then and now), while other bits (like the surfboard turned skateboard) are just plain silly. Lighthearted stuff. (M-12)

★★★★★

HOME POWER #9 (On Request from PO Box 130, Hornbrook, CA 96044-0130): A great source of free information on photovoltaic, water and other alternative sources of energy for your home. #9 includes an article on designing a complete system, more speculations on vehicle construction, and lots of leads on things like 12-volt refrigerators and washing machines. Fun to read because the editors clearly believe in what they're doing. (S-48t)

★★★★★

THE HONEYWELL PROJECT CIRCULATOR Vol. 7 #1 ($20/yr from 1929 S. 5th St., Minneapolis, MN 55454): Newsletter of a group who, for 21 years, have been pursuing the seemingly Quixotic project of converting Honeywell from a defense contractor to a contributor to peace. Their main tool is nonviolent education and witness; this issue includes a position paper from Marv Davidov about possible tactics, some Plowshares news, reports on local actions, and more. (S-12t)

★★★★★

HORIZONS UNLIMITED #35-36 (50¢ from Nancy Spriggs, 7395 Hillside Turn, Mt. Airy, MD 21771): I'm not sure I've grokked the point of this one yet, but comics and art are the major topics. Editor Tisch editorializes about comics on television and censorship, and then reprints some cartoons and random artwork in #35. #36 is almost all reprints from major media about children's cartoons and more on censorship. (S-6)

★★★★★

THE HUDSON VALLEY GREEN TIMES Winter-Spring 1989 ($15/yr from PO Box 208, Red Hook, NY 12571): The big issue in this environmental tabloid is still garbage, as spotlighted in the included **SOLID WASTE ACTION BULLETIN**. Other topics of interest in the winter issue include a possible new natural gas pipeline and low level radioactive waste storage. Spring has nematodes for termite control and a bit on Alar. Lots of information and links to activism. (T-16t)

★★★★★

HUMAN SURVIAL Vol. 14 #3 ($1 (?) from Negative Population Growth, 16 E. 42nd St. #1042, New York, NY 10017): This bunch believes that the population on this planet is already too high, and want to shoot for 150 million in the US and 2 billion worldwide. (That's a 40% cut for us and 60% for everyone else). They propose education and child rationing as the means, although the only concrete suggestion in this issue is closing our borders to immigration. (S-4t)

★★★★★

HUTH COMIX #2 (50¢ from Geof Huth, 225 State St, #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): There seem to be two themes here: artsy intellectual stuff and vermin. The ticks are on the front, the rats on the back, and the Zen and sculpture and Avicenna comics are in between. A curious collection. (D-8)

★★★★★

HYPER-TENSION #26 ($2.50 from Lana Brown, PO Box 4188, Wanganui, NEW ZEALAND): A roundup of SF and related fan information: conventions, fan funds, clubs, and assorted whatnot. Much of the news and events here is from Down Under, but there's also a fair proportion of U.S. stuff. Oriented towards all fans, including many who would be dismissed as "fringefans" by the traditionalists. (D-28r)

★★★★★

ICE RIVER #3 ($6/2 issues from 953 N. Gale, Union, OR 97883): A collection of rather experimental prose and poetry. In #3 I was particularly taken by Scott Edelman's "Buffal", a bizarre story of insanity, or perhaps paradise, set in a conveniecce store. Steve Sneyd's poem "To Walk By his Side in the Valley" rolls with mythic potential as well. (D-60t)

★★★★★

ICON #1 ($1.50 *Cash/stamps* from 1247 Graham Ave. #H-8, Florence, AL 35630-2025): Though billing itself as a "literary magazine", this one casts its net to include social commentary and humor as well as short stories. The best bets in the first issue are "Crawdads Under Glass", a story of elementary school revenge, and the discussion of homelessness in Florence. (D-16t)

★★★★★

I COVER THE WAR Jan.-Apr. 1989 ($1 from PO Box 360553, Birmingham, AL 35236): A cultural guide to happenings in B'ham that's more than just another freebie catbox-liner. J.R. Taylor, Kerry Echols and their staff keep up with bad movies, local TV excitement, and indie records, but they also tell us about local classic cars and do interesting features. The February issue homes in on a couple of female impersonators with a high-powered nightclub act. Lots of cool reader hate mail graces the opening pages in April. (S-26t)

★★★★★

THE IDEOLOGY OF MADNESS #8 ($1 from Yggdrasil Press, PO Box 111423, Arlington, TX 76007): A Texan SubGenius zine that dares to trash the name of Stang. In addition to agitating for a more lively local scene (whether SubG or musical), they talk about pirate radio, the band Dirty Tampons, and phoning Elvis. Strange and sort of interesting. (HL-18)

★★★★★

I.G. TIMES #11 ($10/4 issues from PO Box 299, Prince St. Stn., New York, NY 10012): This tabloid of aerosol art (they have ideological objections to the G-word) is back again without the color overlays but with better than ever photo printing. Dozens of pieces of wall and subway car art, together with notes from the hip-hop and associated cultures and worldwide contacts, make this the authority in the field. (T-12t)

★★★★★

ILLITERATE DIGEST #7 (75¢ from 623 Culbertson, Oklahoma City, OK 73105): A collection of cartoons, essays and poetry that's put together with minimal editorial direction. They tend to be somewhat music-oriented (couple of band articles and a Flaming Lips interview in #3), but writers also look at things like the War On Drugs or animal rights. They also print fanzine and cream soda reviews. (HL-30t)

★★★★★

ILL-VIS RULES PRODUCTIONS

These folks put out minis, but they're not minicomics — rather they are quite artistic poetic and miscellaneous publications, with color printing and careful attention to production. Rather than spread their stuff around I thought I'd group them all together this time. The ordering address is PO Box 1421, New Brunswick, NJ 08903.

•**J.A.M.L.** ($1.50): A limited edition of 400 copies of artistic collaborations between Juan Alcantra and Manuel Lezcano. This is hypnotic psychedelic stuff featuring busty mermaids and fairies, portentous battles, and bits of poetry. (M-12)

•**MIGUELITO PINERO'S RANDOM THOUGHTS AND WALKING POETRY** ($3): A collection of Pinero's poetry which, like his life (he did time for dealing and made no secret of the tracks on his arms, even when working in movies and drama) revolves around heroin. It's pretty tough stuff, scary (in part because the reader knows what happened to Pinero) and yet wistful as well. Comes with some documentation of the poet's life and times. (M-20t)

•**ROUND D WORLD ROLLING MANUAL** ($1): 4 Different ways to roll your joints, taken from Europe and the Australian outback. Carefully illustrated with full instructions. (M-8t)

•**THE STORY OF SUICIDE SAL** ($1.50): A bit of poetry — well, more like Doggerel, from Bonnie Parker (you know, of Bonnie & Clyde fame). The story is about a gal who gets out of prison and goes after her ex-boyfriend. It's been dressed up with some news coverage of Parker's death and what is apparently a morgue photo of her remains. (M-16t)

★★★★★

INCITE! #13 (Free from Tim Alborn, PO Box 649, Cambridge, MA 02238): A music-and-stuff zine with a very positive attitude — not as in "positive punk", but as in "good-natured". Besides reviewing music he thinks you should know about and like. Steve publishes tributes to dead poets, short stories, strange artwork and thoughts on song-writing. Interview with Geek in #13. (D-20t)

★★★★★

THE INDEPENDENT ATHEIST Vol. 4 #8-12 (On Request from PO Box 470561, Chicago, IL 60647): In addition to their newsletter, these atheists put out a wide variety of what would be called "tracts" if they were issued by a religious organization. Their overall stance is that religion is foolish; they spend a lot of time making fun of or pointing out contradictions in the Bible. Some good arguments, but overall perhaps a tinge too much skepticism. (HL-14t)

★★★★★

INDEPENDENT GLOBALLY #3 ($3 from Eric Vonx, IBB 21-3, 3582 VD Utrecht, HOLLAND): A zine of mostly hardcore interviews, but without too confined a view of music. This time around they also talk to a German ska band (Blue Chateau) and run an appreciation of the c&w music of Hank Williams. Other featured bands include Crash Box, Freeway Killers, and Easy Riders. (A4-298)

★★★★★

INDUSTRIAL RITUAL MANUAL AND HIGH-TECH HYMNAL FOR THE TEMPLE OF THE HOLY O-SCOPE ($2 from S.C. Emmons, PO Box 1282, Fort Collins, CO 80522): A SubGenial publication that consists of a variety of things: song lyrics, directions for building crazy instruments, comics and obscure literary references. There's a rather unfinished feel about it all, as if the author became so enraptured by "Bob" that he moved on to the next phase of existence. Weird esoterica. (S-12)

★★★★★

INDUSTRIAL WORKER Vol. 86 #1 ($6/yr from IWW, 3435 N. Sheffield #202, Chicago, IL 60657): The Wobblies are still going strong, or so their paper would lead you to believe — until you notice that only about 150 votes were cast in their last elections. Nonetheless, this is a good source for union news and radical pronouncements on the place of labor in the order of things. BASF lockouts and commemorating dead Fellow Workers lead off this issue. (T-12t)

★★★★★

IN EFFECT #3 ($2 from Chris Wynne, 119-16 8th Ave., College Point, NY 11356): Basically a New York City hardcore music zine, but there's nothing wrong with specialization, especially when you're smart enough to ask intelligent questions like these folks are. Longish interviews with Agnostic Front, Breakdown, Supertouch and Terminal Confusion, plus some short features and a passle of reviews. (S-28)

★★★★★

INFO JOURNAL #56 ($3 from International Fortean Organization, PO Box 367, Arlington, VA 22210-0367): News and articles for the Fortean or other person intrigued by odd events. In #56 they sheepishly report that the Voynich manuscript was translated years ago, and go on to things like geological anomalies, a check of Fort's data in some Irish papers, and the actual letters reporting falls of frogs which he received. Intriguing stuff from people who are smart enough to poke fun at themselves and ask the hard questions. (S-36t)

★★★★★

INSIDE #12 (More info from Box 42B, London, W1A 42B, ENGLAND): Newsletter of the Outsiders Club, a group of people with various disabilities who nevertheless want to socialize and help one another out. They run various events and talk frankly about both personal and sexual socializing. The newsletter is quite fascinating, and from the stories here it has obviously empowered quite a few people, but I don't find any mention of the proper membership fee within. Possibly if you write they can explain the benefits of joining better than I can, or even inspire someone to start a similar group in the States. (A5-58t)

★★★★★

INSIDE JOKE #66-67 ($1.50 from Elayne Wechsler, PO Box 1609, Madison Sq. Stn., New York, NY 10159): A zany collection of humor and lowbrow media — right down (or up, depending on your point of view) to critiques of television commercials. There are cartoons, short stories, Zen madness, movies, animation, records and more packed into every issue, and the "one big family" feel continues to be real attractive. #67 has a full-page Ace Backwords cartoon and all the usual suspects. (S-30r)

★★★★★

THE INSIDER GUN NEWS Vol. 3 #2-4 ($50/yr from Gunpress Publishing Co., PO Box 3257, Alexandria, VA 22302-3257): A trade sheet from John Aquilino, who seems to know his stuff. Read all about the FBI's new specifications for 10MM ammo, the problems at Smith & Wesson, and possible strategies for the gun rights movement in #2. #3 has more on exploding Berettas and assault rifles. (S-4)

★★★★★

THE INSOMNIAC #16 ($10/4 issues from Lynne Parcells, 1310 Sussex St., Portage, MI 49081): A combination of wide-ranging essays (on subjects like the parallel between Joseph Campbell & SubGenius, "The Romanticization of Madness", and Biblical views on women) and MENSA politics and policies. The letter section in especially feisty and interesting, even to those of us who never joined the organization. All conducted with wit and a bit of spice. (HL-64t)

★★★★★

INSTACON THREE PROCEEDINGS (from Fandom Association of Central Texas, PO Box 9612, Austin, TX 78766): I'm not entirely sure if this is available to the public; drop them a line if you're interested. What this is, is a basic guide to running a science fiction convention, from the regional to the Worldcon scale. It sets out the basics in admirably organized fashion, and would be worth reading to anyone interested in running a con. (S-38t)

★★★★★

INTUITIVE EXPLORATIONS Vol. II #8-10 ($12/yr from PO Box 561, Quincy, IL 62306-0561): A collection of short essays on topics spiritual, magickal, and New Age. #8 includes bits of astrology, crystal lore, numerological coincidences between Qabbalah and Superstring theory, and letters on topics from spell casting to animal rights. Crystals are another popular topic, and the works of Michael Baran come in for some attention as well. There's also a growing classified ad section. (S-20)

★★★★★

IN YOUR MAIL #3/4 ($1.50 from Dallas Swan III, 7206 Brookbank Ln., Raleigh, NC 27615): That's three-fourths, not three and four. This is a reviewzine for the underground, somewhat similar to FF in concept but just developing. Besides listing his mail, Dallas prints collections of ideas on how to get zines, or on how people were first exposed to alternative literature. He also reprints hate mail other editors have received. (S-20)

★★★★★

THE IOBM REPORT Feb./Mar. 1989 ($1 (?) from Kaas for Alarm Productions, PO Box 2063, Minneapolis, MN 55402): A minicomic combined with rather minimal musical coverage (chiefly photos from a recent party with lots of bands). The strips here are sort of confusing; one is a futuristic animal-rights saga and the other concerns the travels of a roll of duct tape about the studio — both serialized. (M-40)

★★★★★

IPPL NEWSLETTER Vol. 16 #1 ($20/yr from PO box 766, Summerville, SC 29484): Magazine of the International Primate Protection League, a conservation and animal-rights organization concentrating on our closest animal relatives. They do an especially good job of tracking and interfering with the illegal international trade in endangered primates. (S-24t)

★★★★★

ISTHMUS Vol. 14 #3 ($15/yr from 14 W. Mifflin St., Madison, WI 53703-2523): A weekly community newspaper that manages a lot more words — and interest — than do some from much larger cities. This issue has a look at restaurants switching to recyclable packaging, lots of local and state political news, and on the lighter side, gourmet dog and cat food reviews. There's also the usual medley of restaurant reviews and local events. (T-40t)

★★★★★

IT ALL LIES UNDERNEATH THE SURFACE #3-4 (Free, I think, but send some postage to Tomas, 546 Cecelia Ct., Los Altos, CA 94022): A medley of stuff, some interesting, some not. They're sort of centered in the music scene, but wander off into some skate and some graffiti news, along with plenty of artwork. Strange little stories infiltrate as well. #4 comes with its own wretched salsa record as well. (D-52)

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★★★★★

IT RAD LIHR #22-23 (50¢ (?) from PO Box 472084, Tulsa, OK 74147): This used to be called THIRD RAIL, but the letters on the cover seem to have reordered themselves. Most of #22 is devoted to plugging the new performance space in town, the Institute of Applied Arts, and to reviewing some of the music to come out of it lately. There's also Soviet anti-drug pamphlets, irritating things, and collage. #23 features lots of local news and live show reviews. (S-8r)

★★★★★

JAG Vol. 27 #3-4 (On Request from R.S. Jaggard, MD, 10 E. Charles, Oelwein, IA 50662): Dr. Jaggard is a rarity today: a physician who deals directly with patients and refuses to take money from government payment schemes. He discusses this and related subjects in his occasional broadsides of free market and responsibility. #4 contains his notice of available refunds for patients who feel they were overcharged — a novel way for a doctor to do business.(S-1)

★★★★★

JAKE THE RABBIT #1 and **JAKE THE RABBIT IN WHAT WAS IN THE PUNCH?** (50¢ from Liam Brooks, 11439A. Ptarmigan Dr., Austin, TTX 78758): In #1, Jake's finally got his own mini, and he uses it to take his girlfriend Maureen to a Kurosawa movie and then a jam session. In the second book, America's favorite comic rabbit goes to a party, partakes liberally of the punch bowl, and finds out it's been spiked. A very wholesome acid trip. (M-8)

★★★★★

JAZZ IN PARIS (50 ¢ from Mick Cusimano, PO Box 2565, Harvard Sq. Stn., Cambridge, MA 02238): A wordless love story minicomic in the underground surrealist style. This means that strange things — like the moon playing sax — show up in the backgrounds, and the proportions of characters' anatomy tend to be strangely distorted. A minor piece. (M-8)

★★★★★

JERSEY BEAT #36 ($2 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): Music coverage that centers in the Jersey-NYC-Philly area but gets around, especially in the record reviews. The major interview this time is with Kurt Ralske, the guy behind Ultra Vivid Scene. Other chats include Stetz and Crocodile Shop. Then there's coverage of the CMJ music shindig, a long review of Sonic Youth's latest, and lots more short stuff. Competent and entertaining. (S-36t)

★★★★★

JERSEY BEAT CONFIDENTIAL ($1 from Jim Testa, 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, NJ 07087): A between-meals supplement to Jim's regular music zine, conventiently reviewed just above. This is mostly the overflow record and live reviews, including a good deal of Jim's own writing about various recent shows. Fun and a good introduction to the JB style. (S-9r)

★★★★★

JET LAG #84 ($7.50/6 issues from 8419 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, MO 631477): Judging from the range they cover, this is meant to be the sole guide to new music for many of its readers. Stories in this issue range from the fading away of X to the coming up of Run Westy Run, along with Pere Ubu, Game Theory, and Fuzztones. Lots of record reviews, a few live reviews, and a selection of CD ratings round out the package. Good feeling but not flashy. (T-24t)

★★★★★

JEWISH VEGETARIANS OF NORTH AMERICA Vol. V #4 ($20/yr from PO Box 1463, Baltimore, MD 21203): An exploration of vegetarianism in the light of kashrut and vice versa. They discuss kosher labelling laws, outreach to others, and extending the concept of treif to such things as food additives. They also sell a lot of resources, from postcards to cookbooks. (S-16)

★★★★★

JOHNNY B. GOODE #2 (35¢ & a sdtamp from Concrete Caverns Graphix, 70A Greenwich Ave. #186, New York, NY 10011): A somewhat artistically primitive but still enjoyable minicomic. The plot concerns Springsteen coming to town and the insane lengths some people will go through to get tickets. (M-12)

★★★★★

JOHNNY HEMMIGLARNO ($2 from Full Cup, RD9 Box 95, Bridgton, NJ 08302): A comics from the Liquid Caffiene line. Johnny is rather a social misfit until one day he draws a picture of Merkor the duckdeer and follows him into the land of imagination. There things get decidedly psychedelic, especially after Johnny brings one of his schoolmates along, only to find himself locked in a struggle over control of imagination. (D-24)

★★★★★

JOURNAL OF THE UNITED STATES PSYCHOTRONIC ASSOCIATION Vol. 1 #1 ($25/yr from USPA Journal, 2141 Agatite, Chicago, IL 60625): The USPA defines psychotronics as "the science of mind-body-environment relationships...an interdisciplinary science concerned with the interactions of matter, energy, and consciousness." Topics in this academic-looking journal include scalar electromagnetic weapons and AIDS, mysterious fields emanating from chemicals, the holistic paradigm, and the implications of these new discoveries for art. Much of this is nonsense when evaluated by conventional scientific standards, but the writers seem to be managing to communicate with one another. (S-40t)

★★★★★

JU'I LOBYPLI #7-8 ($5 from The Logical Language Group, 2904 Beau Ln., Fairfax, VA 22031): The major journal of the folks attempting to construct and learn Lojban, the most recent (and most serious) attempt at constructing a completely logical language with a long-term eye on the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis. There's a lot of serious discussion going on here, which I find fascinating — but if you haven't followed along, you might be better off sending a buck for their intro pamphlet. With #8, a separate summary journal, **LE LOJBO KARNI**, has spun off, while more serious discussions continue in the original. (S-66)

★★★★★

KAOS #13 (BM Utopia, London, WC1N 3XX, ENGLAND): Joel Biroco is the authoritative source on the Chaos Current, an unruly sector of the confusing politics of the Crowley-spawned occult community. There's a good deal of hinting and ranting here at the true magickal nature of our times, as well as lots of letters from other curious folk and articles on topics like sex-magic (dismissed as an open secret) and the I Ching. Very dense and esoteric and not a small bit nasty to those who disagree. No price listed, and I'm not sure Joel will send copies to just anyone, so perhaps you'd better write if you're interested. (D-60t)

★★★★★

KARNO'S KLASSICS #25-29 (75 ¢ & Age Statement from Kjartan Arnorsson, 1387 Commonwealth Ave., Allston, MA 02134): Dirty funny animal comics. Kjartan draws all manner of furry animals with improbably large organs engaged in outrageous sex, in between action and adventure struggles. He's also collaborated on a couple of books with Donna Barr, with their characters commiting mayhem on one another; their envelope sketches in #27 are fascinating. Tastefully sleazy annd good fun. Also available for $2 is the **KARNO'S KLASSICS SPECIAL** #3, featuring full-page furverted pinups. (D-12)

★★★★★

KATUAH JOURNAL #22 ($2.50 from PO Box 638, Leicester, NC 28748): A bioregional journal from southern Appalachia. There's a strong spiritual thrust here, as well as recognition from the editorial group that there are different paths leading in the same direction. Contributions range from apocalyptic thoughts about ecological disintegration to poetry to news on radioactive material convoys. Inspiring but perhaps a bit too fanatical at points. (T-32t)

★★★★★

THE KEYSTONE SOCIALIST Spring 1989 (50¢ (?) from Socialist Party of Pennsylvania, 2208 South St., Philadelphia, PA 19146): A rather small newsletter from a group affiliated with the official Socialist Party, USA. There's some editorializing about what's wrong with America, Dan Quayle jokes, and a screed about election fraud in this issue. (S-4t)

★★★★★

KIDSCIENCE Vol. 2 #5 ($3 from Catherine Reed, 916 Marsh St., Mankato, MN 56001): A resource for elementary school teachers looking for science ideas and activities. #5 is a theme issue, focused on ecology, with ideas on demonstrating predator-prey relationships through games, setting up a mini-ecosystem in a jar, and teaching about water conservation. (S-22)

★★★★★

KIDS LIB NEWS #13 ($4 from Oness Press, PO Box 1064, Kurtistown, HI 96760): A collection of ideas about kids liberation and responsible & fun parenting. Mycall Sunanda collects ideas and stories about activities, labor, massage, holistic parenting, rebirthing, education and more and passes them along. A sourcebook for resourceful parents. (S-48)

★★★★★

KINDRED VOICES Winter 1988-89 (Donation from 1337 6th Ave., Des Moines, IA 50314): Newsletter of the Kindred Community, a group fighting homelessness by running and living in a couple of houses along with their homeless friends. They also get into civil disobedience and passive resistance to such things as nuclear weapons. KV describes their trials and successes, and features some writings from various community members. They could use a few bucks, or some clean socks, or a sack of barley, or whatever. (S-12t)

★★★★★

KITTI COMICS #4 ($2 (?) from 312 3rd Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904): The charm of this comic escapes me, I'm afraid. Produced by Dan Fioretti, these are mostly sort of New Age-ish in idea, but totally disjointed, and drawn in what would have passed for high style in your fourth grade class. Maybe these are Zen koans in disguise, but for whatever reason, my brain isn't laughing at them. (S-20)

★★★★★

KNUCKLEHEAD PRESS Vol. LII #1 ($5/yr from PO Box 305, Burbank, CA 91503): Though they rate themselves as "gut-busting laughs" the best I can conjure up for this mix of "New Nuke Guidelines", Amex in China and Jesse Jackson jokes is a few chuckles. Strongly reminiscent of the NATIONAL LAMPOON News of the World sections from my adolescence, though without the naked girls. (S-4t)

★★★★★

KOMICAZE (IRCs from Reima Makinen, Oksasenk 9B32, 00100 Helsinki, FINLAND): A book of comics by Reima Makinen, who has a very strange view of the world. People go looking for cameras to help out at plane wrecks, get in fights over wrecked cars, and date their own great aunts as though it were the most natural thing in the world. Very nice clean artistic style — sort of resembles an arty foreign movie. (A4-16)

★★★★★

KOMOTION INTERNATIONAL #2 ($1 from PO Box 410502, San Francisco, CA 94141-0502): Komotion is simultaneously an association of artists, a gallery, a place for music, a record producer, and this collection of writings: in short, a place for cultural radicals to band together for mutual aid and expression. Coverage in print ranges from simple reporting on shows they've had to excerpts from the works of folks like Peter Plate to serious essays on culture and what's wrong with it. There's hope for the alternative scene yet. (S-40t)

★★★★★

KREATURE COMFORTS Vol. 1 #2 ($1 & a couple of stamps from 1916 Madison Ave. Memphis, TN 38104): It takes a lot of nerve to try to run a music zine in Memphis, but these folks manage. Inside are a pile of live reviews (fortunately the local scene only offered a few good shows so they can be exhaustive) and a look back at 1988 with best & worst music, zine picks, and so on. Also bizarre collages and humor. Formerly **KOOL THANGS** — they got tired of that name. (S-12)

★★★★★

KULTCHA #118-120 ($1/5 issues from Packrat Press, PO Box 5498, Atlanta, GA 30307): Currently Kerry Thornley is using these broadsides as a transcription of one of his little notebooks. Thus they're a mishmash of living cheaply, conspiracy theory, and speculations on how to enlighten oneself — rather similar to his columns in this zine. (S-1)

★★★★★

KURLUK Feb.-Apr. 1989 ($1.50 from PO Box 6186, Baltimore, MD 21231-6186): A newsletter for pagans that offers a lot of things for sale. The February issue gets rather alarmist about global destruction and loss of civil rights for witches in America, and also includes a sample of "Magickal Sparkle Incense." March has a sample of Herbal Saffron Tea as well. (HL-28)

★★★★★

THE KVINDE HADER KLUB #6 ($1.50 from Herb Jue, 144 Hester St. #8, New York, NY 10013): A music zine with hundreds of short reviews of shows, records, and zines. Most of the time I think Herb and his reviewers are pretty much on track; if you like my reviews you'll probably like theirs. This issue includes a cool blue flexidisc with music from folks who sound suspiciously (and possibly actionably) like some major-label rock recording artists, an interesting novelty. (S-6r)

★★★★★

THE LADDER Vol. XVII ($20/yr from PLAN, 1332 G St. SE, Washington, DC 20003): That stands for Push Literacy Action Now — a group which wants to do things to help people be literate immediately rather than waiting around for yet another government study and top-down implementation. From the looks of this, they're doing good work, both in getting ideas out to people who can use them and in critiquing the educational establishment's behemoth programs in the field. (S-12t)

★★★★★

LA LANGOUSTE #20 (8 francs from Model-Peltex, 3 rue des Couples, 67000 Strasbourg, FRANCE): Reviews (in French) of dozens and dozens of zines, with a strong tip towards the artistic side of thigns but a relatively wide net nonetheless. They also get into cutting-edge experimental and underground music. Art and comics round out the package. A bargain for the Francophone. (A4-12r)

★★★★★

LA LIMACE #9 (1 IRC from Terrapin Syndicate, Lot Duran No. 3, 40120 Pouydesseaux, FRANCE): This is the latest in a series of mail art news sheets issued by Terrapin Syndicate. It announces ten or a dozen shows, tape collections, and other underground arty projects. Hungary, Japan, Belgium and Ireland are a few of the countries represented here. (A4-1)

★★★★★

THE LAME MONKEY MANIFESTO Vol. 3 #14-16 ($1 from PO Box 8763, Knoxville, TN 37996-4800): An alternative college newspaper from the humorous and progressive side of things — not as common as it once was. #14 is a special issue, filled with the latest round of unofficial course evaluations. The blunt comments make amusing reading even if you have no plans to go the the U of Tennessee. #15 has a harsh complaint about their evaluations and some really bizarre fiction, as well as a stencil not to be used on Operation Rescue property. (T-16t)

★★★★★

LAND OF A THOUSAND BANDS #5 (SASE from Ellen Levitt, 1121 E. 22nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210): Mostly record reviews of music Ellen's heard lately, along with a tidbit of art and a few random thoughts. Ranges from rock to rap, and concentrates on indies. (S-1r)

★★★★★

THE LEDGE #7 ($1 from Cindy Laufenberg, 321 Cokes Dr., Toms River, NJ 08753): This music zine has a nice feel to it — it's like a bunch of friends who all like the same music sitting down together to chat about it. Indeed, in some spots a couple people talk about the same record, and the whole staff gets together this time to give us top ten lists. Interview with Safe As Houses is the centerpiece of this issue. Otherwise their taste runs to Metallica, Full Fathom Five, Spiral Jetty, and Dogstar. (S-26)

★★★★★

LEFT BUSINESS OBSERVER #25-27 ($18/yr from 250 W. 85 St., New York, NY 10024-3217): News from the banking and monetary and stock and finance and associated industries, condensed into language the rest of us can understand, and reported from a progressive viewpoint. #25 begins a series on major media businesses with a piece on the *New York Times* and considers the tale of Drexel Burnham. #26 looks at the thrift crisis from a more responsible point of view than the Administration is likely to use. (S-8t)

* * * * *

THE LEIGHTON MOVE #2-3 ($1 from Rodney Leighton, RR #3, Pugwash, NS B0K 1L0, CANADA): An informal and personal wrestling newsletter, being in the main Rodney's responses to other publications in the field and evaluations of the matches he's seen. #3 contains reviews of a bunch of wrestling videos. It's backed by THE LEIGHTON LOOK, a review sheet for periodicals and anything else interesting he gets in the mail. (S-10)

* * * * *

THE LETTER EXCHANGE #17 ($5 from PO Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706): This service-oriented zine for letter writers is still booming; they forwarded something over 17,000 letters last year. Each issue contains hundreds of listings from people interested in correspondence, plus a confidential procedure for getting started. They also publish lots of letters to the zine, providing a snapshot of the state of the art today. (D-36t)

* * * * *

LIBERATOR 1988 Edition (Donation from ALFSG, 1543 N. E St. #44, San Bernardino, CA 92405): The above-ground support group paper of the Animal Liberation Front. Mostly this is reports on actions taken in the past to free animals from labs and other places of confinement, as well as to cause economic distress to the people who put them there. There's also a bit of advice for the person considering such things themselves. (T-16t)

* * * * *

THE LIBERTARIAN REPUBLICAN Vol. II #3-4 ($20/yr from LROC, 444 Castro St. #301, Mountain View, CA 94041): The Libertarian Republican Organizing Committee, having figured out that the Libertarian Party can't take power, is now trying to infiltrate the same ideas into the GOP. Their journal explains such things as the fact that the RJR-Nabisco buyout was a triumph of capitalism and good for the people, and that Cesar Chavez is a washed-up relic no one listens to any more. (S-16t)

* * * * *

LIBERTY Vol. 84 #1 ($6.95/yr from 55 W. Oak Ridge Dr., Hagerstown, MD 21740): A slick magazine promoting separation of church and state from the religious point of view. It stands out for having balanced, in-depth articles rather than lots of quick hatchet jobs. #1 includes a look at Duffey Strode, boy preacher, and a non-rabid Biblical analysis of THE LAST TEMPTATION OF CHRIST, among other articles. (S-32t)

* * * * *

LICKING WOUNDS #4 ($1 from Shane Paul, PO Box 14450, Phoenix, AZ 85063): A zine of "Underculture Art". Shane and his friends deny the mystic power of the artist, asserting that we are all artists amidst an orgy of self-promotion. They seem to embrace the outlaw spirit just because it's there, in the same democratic fashion as mail art or neoism. A bold reconceptualization that may someday bear fruit. (HL-24)

* * * * *

LIFE COMICS & STORIES #3 (50¢ & a stamp from Victor Gates, 552 Lancelot Dr., North Salt Lake, UT 84054): A quite charming minicomic that doesn't have superheroes, monsters, or stick figures in it. What it does have is some of the best small press comics talent around doing strips about their actual lives: asking girls to the prom, drinking too heavily, moving to Austin, whatever. More interesting than it sounds by far. (M-16)

* * * * *

LIFE IS A JOKE #3 (50¢ from 2288 Hawk, Simi Valley, CA 93065): A collection of mostly comics that are humorous in a very black vein, making suggestions for a better life ("Bored? Start up a Lynch Mob!"). Panders shamelessly to the urges of young males who like drugs and violence. From my old home town — obviously not much has changed there. (D-20)

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LIFE ON PLANET EARTH Vol. 2 #6 (SASE or trade from Embassy of Planet Claire, PO Box 3194, Bellingham, WA 98227): Random little essays published whenever the editor has both something to say and the money to say it with. Topics in this issue: the possibilities for exotic life, sex in Dear Abby, organic blood pressure testing, strange dreams, and fanzine reviews. (S-4t)

* * * * *

THE LIGHT #1 (A couple of IRCs from PO Box 132, Acton, London W3 8XQ): A small newsletter of punk and music stuff apparently made to be handed out free near home, but it will cost them a bit to ship overseas. Short fanzine listings, news of recording porojects, and a big UK Subs ad grace the first issue. (D-4r)

* * * * *

LIGHT & LIBERTY #1 ($10/yr from Lawrence E. Christopher, PO Box 33, Woodstock, NY 12498): A zine of personal opinion whose editor loosely defines himself as "a pantheist-decentralist-libertarian". The first issue is taken up by an essay called "Beyond Radicalism", arguing that freedom may be achieved by changing ones consciousness better than by changing society. (S-7)

* * * * *

LIGHT IN THE BUSHEL #6 ($1 or The Usual from Richard Brandt, 4740 N. Mesa #111, El Paso, TX 79912): A SF fanzine in the time-honored personalzine mode — i.e., Richard writing about his life. That's cool, since his convention-running and woman-chasing (or, in some chases, being chased by women) experiences are interesting and well-written in few-frills prose. there's also the requisite quota of fannish illos and letters from other faneds. (S-16)

* * * * *

LIMITED POTENTIAL #9 (50¢ from Mike, 6653 N. Newgard #2W, Chicago, IL 60626): The first issue in two years; I guess it';s hard to be sure when a zine is dead. Mostly music, although there's a real funny Peanuts-ripoff punk comic strip filling a few pages in the back. Interview with Shutdown, live and recorded reviews ease Mike back into the swing of things. (HL-20)

* * * * *

LIQUID ASSETS Feb. 1989 ($4 from Brenda Riggs, 637 W. 31st, Austin, TX 78705): A collection of collages, original art, poetry and ranting. These folks seem to be real down on religion and advertising and other oppressive facets of contemporary society, and express their anger by borrowing and attacking the images of those fields. Rebellion in black and white. (S-50)

* * * * *

LITERARY MARKETS #44 ($12/6 issues from Bill Marles, PO Drawer 1310, Point Roberts, WA 98281-1310): Bill tracks the small press to find people accepting works, whether they pay in copies or actual money. Then he summarizes this information for budding writers. Around 50 entries per issue, with full contact information. (S-6t)

* * * * *

LITTLE FREE PRESS #68 (SASE from 2714 1st Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55408): More inspirational words from the inventor of the Priceless Economic System — that is, just giving things away. Editor Ernest Mann has been living simply for decades now, passing stuff along, making it do, wearing it out, while trying to figure out how to bring the rat race to a halt. He's not there yet, but still seems to be having fun. (S-4)

* * * * *

LITTLE SKULL'S BAY-BEE #7 (One stamp from Carrie, 833 1/3 N. Formosa, Hollywood, CA 90046): This has gradually moved from being exclusively a zine of gothic art to one of art and opinions. Carrie solicits thoughts on things like clothes that you used to like and now don't, or heroin, or teen crushes, or other things, and prints the responses in the next issue. A small survey of the underground. (M-8)

* * * * *

LIVE WILD OR DIE! (Donation from PO Box 411233, San Francisco, CA 94141): A radical journal in defense of non-industrial life. They don't wish to be pigeonholed as an Earth First! derivative, but they're in the same mode of ecodefense — though they also engage in a bit of analysis as well as action. Subjects range from monkeywrenching to building a useful movement to living by "scamming" the system. This would probably be about two bucks if they weren't trying to smash the system, so be generous. (T-36r)

* * * * *

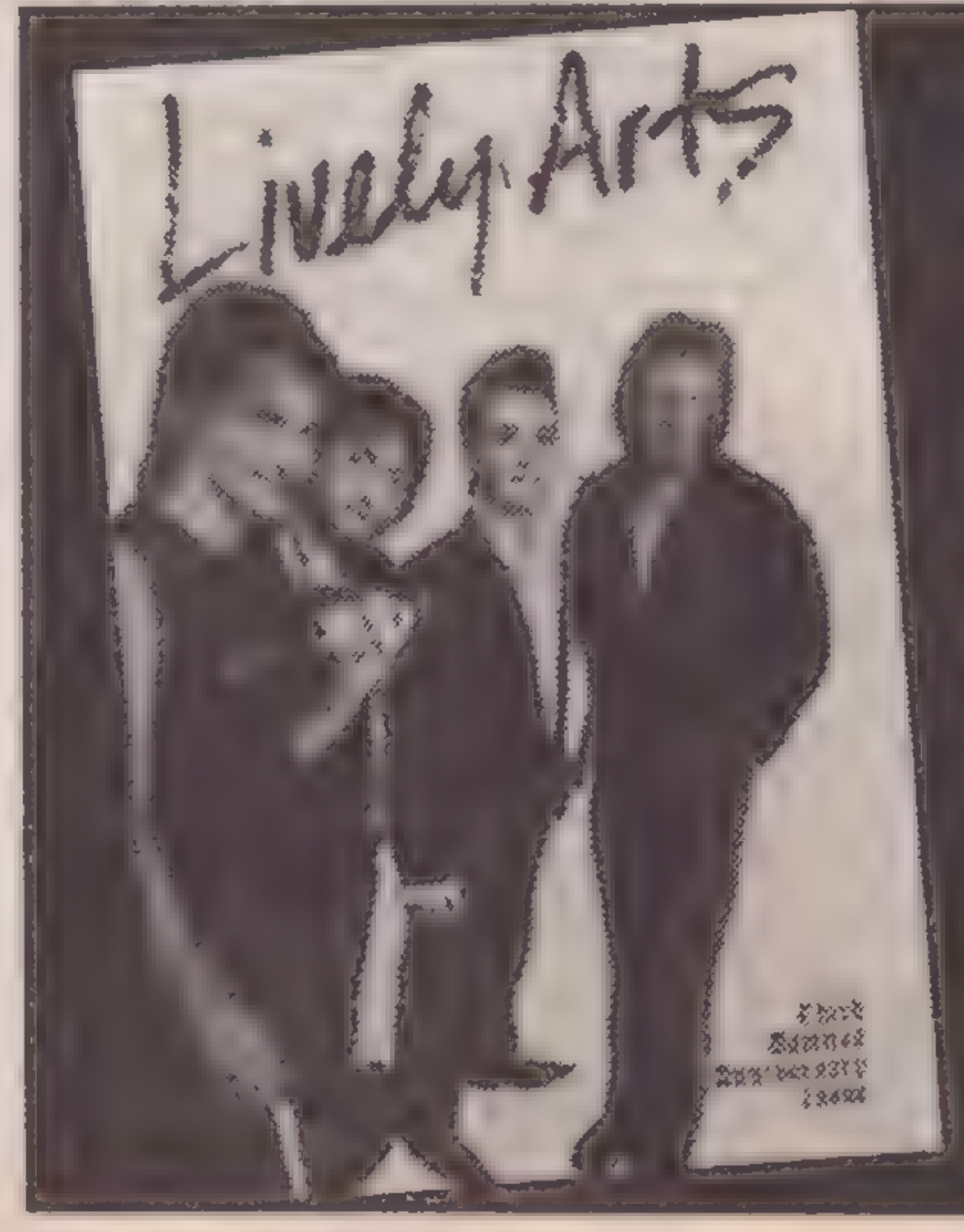
LIVING FREE #47-49 ($1.25 from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): A zine for those who want to get out of the system and cope for themselves. The emphasis is on building a simple and mainly invisible life — sort of applied libertarianism. #47 includes notes on making grape leather and thoughts on the causes of homelessnes. #48 has Jim's investment picks and a prospectus for someone else's 1000-year house design. (S-8r)

* * * * *

LIVING SICKNESS #7 ($1 (?) from 1344 Cathy Way, Hayward, CA 94545): A romp back into music past — 1960's garage bands, to be specific. Most of this is reprinted news stories, photos and publicity from back when all the bands had four or five guys with medium-length hair. It all looks incredibly dated and is definitely campy. They also keep some track of 80's garage bands. (S-22)

* * * * *

THE LIVING SPHERE #8 ($7.77 from PO Box 429, Garberville, CA 95440-0429): A journal of the occult, mysterious and esoteric. They print things from many tradition: East Indian and Native American lore, bits of Thelemic magick and politics, an essay on the mystical significance of silver, and a page on Maori carving all grace this issue. It's quite a potpourri of



Third Damned Anniversary Issue

#12 is 44 pages of:
Comics • The Damned
Betsy • Rob Younger
Dave Vanian • Animal Rights
African music industry,
Illustrations and more!

Send $1 cash, to:

LIVELY ARTS
P. O. Box 4906
San Diego, CA 92104 USA

myth and magic, a sourcebook without any firm guidelines as to its use. (S-68)

★★★★★

LNAC ALMANAC Vol. 6 #1 ($10/yr from PO Box 60552, Pasadena, CA 91116): The publication of Librarians for Nuclear Arms Control, a group with an educational focus. The top story this time around is of course the sad state of the nuclear weapons infrastructure in this country. They provide lots of notes on where to find resources, both in print and on video. (S-8t)

★★★★★

LOAFING THE DONKEY #22-24 ($1 & a stamp from Peter Mantis, 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104): A cultural sort of zine that ranges pretty widely. #24 is one of the best issues yet, featuring an issue-by-issue retrospective of **THE SWEET RIDE** through its Randy Russell incarnation. There's also a fine hand-colored cover, reviews of some freaky music from Minneapolis, films, a cutaway B-52, and more. (D-20r)

★★★★★

THE LOG CABIN #99 ($1 from Jerry Edwards, PO Box 881, Medical Lake, WA 99022): A mutual support group and idea exchange for people interested in going "Back To The Land" — whether that means moving to the boonies or just living more simply in the suburbs. Made up of letter snippets from members, subjects range from avoiding the drudgery of farming to using wastewater on the garden to surviving subzero temperatures. (D-16r)

★★★★★

LONELY PLANET UPDATE #29 ($3.95 from Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): Lonely Planet is an Australian group that produces incredible grassroots tourist guides to everywhere but the US, USSR and Europe. The UPDATE is a quarterly report from their readers, with everything from where to stay in Tibet to the difficulties of bicycling 15,000 kilometers to health problems in Kathmandu. #29 also has a special section on Mexican ruins, previewing one of their forthcoming books. A definite must for the courageous traveller. (D-186t)

★★★★★

THE LONE PENTACLE Oimelc (SASE from 815A Brazos #339, Austin, TX 78701): This time around this zine is mostly about morality, or rather about something that I'd call post-morality: an attempt to do away with good and evil by transcending them rather than retreating to amorality. It's a thought-provoking little essay. (S-2)

★★★★★

LONG SHOT #8 ($5 from PO Box 6231, Hoboken, NJ 07030): A collection of stories, poems, photos and art from the underbelly of culture. Lots of anguished cries here, from the Beats on forward, Robert Press delivers an arresting story in "Asking for It"; Tuli Kupferberg provides some parting shots at Reagan; Joel Lewis introduces 8 poems by Ted Berrigan. Lots more here, in greasy gritty street voices, beaten down but not out. (D-125t)

★★★★★

LONG WAY HOME (Stamps/cash donation from Oyster Publications, 723 N. Highland Ave., Arlington Hts., IL 60004): A short story by John Porcellino, which gradually moves from childhood memories to childhood fantasies. Or perhaps there's not quite that much unidirectionality; it's hard to tell here just what is truth and what fantasy. Illustrated with harsh childish drawings. (D-8t)

★★★★★

LOOKING FORWARD Vol. 2 #7/8 (On request from PO Box 9518, Washington, DC 20016): A newsletter for persons living with AIDS — not just those with the disease or even HIV positive people, but friends, families and professional caregivers as well. They "offer here words of encouragement and information about special sources of help", from the national AIDS hotline (800-342-AIDS) to local clinical drug trials to resources for "AIDS in the Workplace" seminars. (S-4)

★★★★★

LOOKING LEFT Feb.-Mar. 1989 ($1 (?) from Box 2000, SUNY-Binghamton, Binghamton, NY 13901): An alternative forum for expressions from progressive voices in the SUNY community. The February issue includes pieces on Malcolm X, the fate of one Palestinian activist, abortion rights, and a few other things. March has anti-CIA recruitment, androgynous feminism, and statements on discrimination on campus. (T-12t)

★★★★★

LOSING FAITH #8 ($2 from PO Box 10533, Minneapolis, MN 55458): A magazine that refuses to exercise any restraints on its artistic staff, resulting in works that continually flaunt the boundaries of conventional morality. For example, in this issue Fred and Wilma Flintstone are incorporated into someone's sick cartoon — and of course weird sex and nudity are old standards here. But it's not just shock value; there really is artistic talent and perhaps even Statements here. (HL-20)

★★★★★

THE LOST PERUKE Vol. 1 #3-6/7 ($6/6 issues from Paul Kellermann, 131-K Marina Dr., Edison, NJ 08817): A humor magazine that hasn't settled down into a consistent groove yet but with definite highlights despite Paul's tendency to occasionally write past his vocabulary. #4 is the better of these issues, with a guide to dead rock stars and "The Twenty Most Annoying People of 1988". There's some nice pot shots at Ollie North in #5. Current events from tainted fruit to oil tankers come in for pot-shots in the double Spring issue #6/7. (D-26)

★★★★★

LOUP-GAROU (75¢ from John Bell, PO Box 902 Stn. B, Ottawa ONT K1P 5P9, CANADA): Computer graphics and text adding up to one cold, dark, stark piece of art and horror. John has made good use of the medium, drawing on the non-representational strengths of the pixilated view of the world. (D-8)

★★★★★

LOWLIFE #15 ($4 from Glen Thrasher, PO Box 8213, Atlanta, GA 30306-0213): A fine zine that seems at first to be just another music rag but branches out all over the place. Interviews this time include Miekal And & Liz Was and the UFOphiles from Arcturus Book Service as well as music folks. The reviews are selective, thoughtful, and reasonably long — much more depth than my own. Overall, **LOWLIFE** gets deep into underground culture, rooting around and tossing up interesting morsels, be they fiction, photography, music or ranting, for the reader's appreciation. This issue also includes a free 6-song EP, with challenging works from Blowgun, Peach of Immortality, Tinnitus and others. (S-88t)

★★★★★

LUCID #42/43 ($1 from Dale Adams, 3041 Stanton Cir., Carmichael, CA 95608): A MENSA "forum for active discussion and debate on topics of philosophical and contemporary interest." This is a double issue, centered around the writings of Grady Towers, who examines the varieties of intelligence and the dynamics of various high-IQ societies, as well as the correlations between intelligence and creativity and sundry other topics (D-40r)

★★★★★

THE MAD 3 PARTY #29-32 ($1 from Noreascon 3, PO Box 46, MIT Branch, Boston, MA 02139): "More than you ever wanted to know about running a Worldcon" — which, depending on your point of view, has gotten either impressively or ludicrously complex in the past decade or so. The Worldcon, of course, is the annual gathering of science fiction fans, and this newsletter is from the people planning the 1989 one. There's an amazing amount of logistics and not a little bit of politics involved. (S-24t)

★★★★★

MADAM X'S GAZETTE #28 (50¢ (?) from 3747 Roberta St., Los Angeles, CA 90031): A little bitty thing with lots of color and a positive outlook on life. It's close to being a minicomic but without much plot. Happy people finding true love and communicating is the basic theme here. (M-4)

★★★★★

THE MAD ENGINEER #10 ($3/4 issues from Mary Hagan, c/o Mosier, 4550 Flake Rd., Martinsville, IN 46151): A small sf fanzine, back after a rather long vacation, with decidedly non-standard contents. They feature short book reviews, news clippings on the wonders of modern science, and psychotoxic drawings from A.C. Samish. There's also some short fiction in this issue. (S-20r)

★★★★★

THE MADISON INSURGENT Vol. 2 #16 ($15/23 issues from PO Box 704, Madison, WI 53701): A generalized journal of the Left, apparently open to all manner of local groups. Areas covered include gay & lesbian issues, labor rights, Central America, biotechnology, and marginal culture. (T-8t)

★★★★★

MALCONTENT ($2 (?) from Lauri Mal, 16 Nautilus Dr., Leonardo, NJ 07737): I feel like I've walked into the middle of a party here; these folks are already acquainted with one another and intruders might not be tolerated. Be that as it may, this is a nice collection of poetry, artworks, short stories and opinion pieces. They range from evocative poetry by Walt Phillips to a collection of grumps at compact disks to occasional hand-colored photos. Very warm feeling. (S-48)

★★★★★

THE MANDOCRUCIAN'S DIGEST #12 ($10/yr from PO Box 1935, Martinsburg, WV 25401): They call themselves "America's only Mandolin publication", and so far as I know, they're right. They interview musicians who play mandolin and related music (like Dan Hicks and some former Lickettes this time) and discuss techniques (with sheet music). They also review plenty of records that don't get much press even in the fanzine world. (T-19r)

★★★★★

MANGO ZINE ($6/6 issues from PO Box 1721, Healdsburg, CA 95448): A collage of cultural icons including sex and drugs, together with snatches of original poetry, music reviews, and an advice column from an alien being. It's a mixed bag, ranging from mass murder to old faces to crotchety librarians. (S-8)

★★★★★

MARGIN #7 ($7 from 46 Shepard St. #2, Cambridge, MA 02138): Edited in Scotland, this is a fine litmag. #7 is a special issue subtitled "A Musical Kaleidoscope", with all manner of critical musings on music from classical to jazz. There are several pages of snide and enlightening musical quotes, T.A.S. Mani on Indian music, Gerry Stewart with saxaphone poetry, and Jed Rasula on the original authenticity of jazz, to name a few contributions. Very highbrow stuff. (S-96t)

★★★★★

THE MASON ST. ORACLE Vol. 1 #15-18 ($1 (?) from 622 S. Mason St., Fort Collins, CO 80524): A community paper that's still pretty young and feisty. In #15 they report on some of the shoddy activities of a local property management company. In #18 they look at holiday depressions.

They also cover local music and events, plus print a sprinkling of humor and zine reviews. (T-8t)

★★★★★

MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL #68-71 ($2.50 from PO Box 288, Berkeley, CA 94701): The incredible huge music zine that covers all of the punk world and then some. Reviews, interviews, columns, zine spotlights, radio shows, political graphics, underground news, new books, left politics, and tons of letters...it's all here. Almost an institution rather than a zine, and completely indispensable to anyone wanting to keep up with the music scene. #71 is a theme issue, with much of the content focused on sexuality and a defiantly honest attitude. (S-128t)

★★★★★

MAX(ine)'S TWO PAGES #1 (Donation from Crystal Rain Research Agency, PO Box 174, Richland, GA 31825): A new blurt of opinions from someone who actually has a few. The first issue is a ramble about the subject of new religions, suggesting that there is need for some restraint and judgment even in the face of the idea of religious freedom. (S-2)

★★★★★

MEASURES OF CENTRAL TENDENCY #1 (50¢ stamps or trade from David Ross, 350A Lafayette Rd. #3C, Metuchen, NJ 08840): Impossible to pigeonhole due to a diversity of interests. There are scraps of music coverage and mail art here, with eerie altered Dobbsheads in the background suggesting a SubGenial influence. Some of the contents are slightly disturbing in their use of hate-oriented language, but there's not enough context to know what to make of them. (S-6)

★★★★★

THE MEDIA

This is a somewhat self-referential heading: elements of the media which analyze and critique other elements of the media, an increasingly-popular pastime.

★★★★★

•**BETWEEN THE LINES** Vol. 2 #1 ($29/12 issues from PO Box 2870, Palos Verdes, CA 90274): "The Watchdog of Liberal Bias in the Establishment Media". This one contains many more short bits and fewer statistics than does **MEDIAWATCH** (below). They seem to be particularly down on all those pinko reds in Hollywood, and on the willingness of the liberal press to print Soviet disinformation — in other words, this is pretty strident stuff. (S-16t)

•**CENSORSHIP NEWS** #30 ($25/yr Donation from 2 W. 64th St., 2 W. 64th St., New York, NY 10023): The watchdog publication of the National Coalition Against Censorship, who are interested inprotecting free speech in pretty much all circumstances. They report on suppression attempts around the country and provide advice and support to those in trouble. (S-8)

•**CONTENT** July/Aug. 1988 ($15 in Canada or C$20 outside per year from Friends of Content, 36 Charkay St., Nepean, ONT K2E 5N4, CANADA): "For Canadian journalists", says the subtitle, and this is indeed a working journalist's magazine. Serious coverage of subjects like journalism education and businessmen taking over newspapers dominates the pages here, though there is also some advice on writing for a living. Very well done. (S_36t)

•**EXTRA!** Vol. 2 #4-5 ($3 from FAIR, 130 W. 25th St., New York, NY 10001): This one is from a liberal watchdog group which seeks to expose the conservative bias of the media, with special attention to the major newspapers and television networks. #4 is a special issue, devoted to an examination of the guest list of the show Nightline and its implications for fair coverage. #5 takes a critical look at AIDS as a marketing tool and the media attitude towards "terrorism". (S-16t)

•**FMEDIA!** Vol. 3 #3 ($4.50 from Bruce Elving, 241 Anderson Rd., Esko, MN 55733-9413): The publisher counsels readers to think of this as the National Enquirer of FM radio coverage — though the pages of news on who has what call letters and why are a bit drier than I remember the latter rag as being. On the other hand the controversy over translator stations still rages, and there's plenty of fun letters and notes about industry happenings. (S-8t)

•**FREE PRESS NETWORK** Vol. 8 #1 ($25/yr from Free Press Association, PO Box 15548, Columbus, OH 43215): Newsletter of a mostly-Libertarian group of media professionals. #1 reports on their annual conference, with a debate on the propriety of tobacco advertising and arguments over whether it's the left or the right that dominates the media. (S-8t)

•**MEDIAWATCH** Vol. 2 #10-Vol. 3 #3 ($36/12 issues from Media Research Center, 111 S. Columbus St., Alexandria, VA 22314): This one is from a conservative watchdog group which seeks to expose the liberal bias of the media, with special attention to the major newspapers and television networks. #1, for example, discusses the choice of words in abortion stories and reveals a Marxist who used to work for the **WALL STREET JOURNAL**. #1 examines stories to see which groups warrant the label "liberal". (S-8t)

•**ON BALANCE** Vol. II #1-2 ($95/yr from The Fraser Institute, 626 Bute St., Vancouver, BC V6E 3M1, CANADA): This one focuses on Canadian media, using exhaustive statistical analysis of the major sources of news in the country as its tool. It appears to be pretty objective, without any particular axes to grind. #1 examines coverage of the 1988 Canadian elections and pronounces it reasonably balanced. #2 looks at health care and documents a pattern of ignoring stories by CBC. (S-8t)

★★★★★

MEMOIRS OF THE COFFEE SHOP SOCIETY Vol. 2 ($1 from 1760 Monrovia Ave. #A-19, Costa Mesa, CA 92627): A selections of short prose pieces by Carol Jameson, about life in a coffee store — not exactly a coffee shop, but I suppose close enough. She writes with a sure touch about minor incidents in the passing crowd, drawing sketches of the flotsam of humanity that passes through the store. (D-14t)

★★★★★

MESECHABE #2 ($10/yr from 7725 Cohn St., New Orleans, LA 70118): A magazine in both the bioregional and Green traditions, focused on the lower end of the Mississippi River. In this issue, they report on a recent march to call attention to toxic waste, look at local geography and what it means to people, and dip into topics as diverse as history and art, seeking to relate them to the clime they live in. (S-29t)

★★★★★

MESSAGE POST Dec. 1988-Mar. 1989 ($1 from Light Living Library, PO Box 190, Philomath, OR 97370): This one is for folks who are into living lightly, as the publisher suggests, with an emphasis on portable dwellings and long-term camping. There's all manner of advice here for prospective dropouts from the rat race, and they keep a lot of info about wild plants, tipis, portable showers and much more in print. (D-14r)

★★★★★

METAL MELTDOWN #5 ($1.25 from PO Box 824, Severna Park, MD 21146): A zine devoted to heavy metal, with the emphasis on thrash, speed, and death metal music. Sindrome headlines in this issue, along with Overkill, Hades, Viking and a ton of record and demo reviews. (S-44)

★★★★★

METALPHYSICS! Vol. 2 #1 ($1 (?) from 910 Sedgefield Dr. #73, Shelby, NC 28150): Lots of photos and stories covering heavy metal bands from Judas Priest to Circle Jerks. Fairly uncritical reporting, but they do ask about music and philosophy, which is probably what their readers want to hear about. Others covered in this issue include Britny Fox, Kix, and LA Guns. (T-16t)

★★★★★

META-SCOOP Vol. 6 #1 ($2 from 1004 Live Oak, Arlington, TX 76012): The newsletter of FLAME, the Foundation of Light Ane Metaphysical Education. They publish a variety of short blurbs plus a fair number of New Age-ish ads. #1 leads off with a strong anti-plastic editorial, and later gets into Sufism and Big Mountain. (S-13t)

★★★★★

METRO RIQUET #6 (7 IRCs from F. Duvivier, 18 allee des Orgues de flandre, 75019 Paris, FRANCE): An international magazine devoted to alternative and underground art published in Paris. It covers a lot of bases; the January '89 issue has interviews with a Czech photographer, an American musician, an Italian artist, and others. In addition to the interviews it has art and reviews from around the world. It is published in English and French, making it accessible to most North American readers. It is a good means of getting into the European scene. (S-46) [guest review by Stuart McCook]

★★★★★

MINI EXAMINER Vol. 10 #26 ($9/12 issues from Irene Hamlen Stephenson, PO Box 3893, Chatsworth, CA 91313): A newsletter of biorhythm character analysis, with pieces on famous people to convince you to buy the service in your own life. Character and compatability analyses are among the services that Irene offers. (S-4r)

★★★★★

MINISTRY OF COGNIZANCE #1-3 ($1 from Rodney E. Griffith, PO Box 523, Columbia Stn., OH 44028-0523): A new apa that's wide-open as far as subject material goes and still interested in more members. Contents so far include discussion of current popular music, comics, self-publishing, and posters from various marginals including Bob Black and Anti-Authoritarians Anonymous. This one is taking off rapidly and crosspollinating a number of disparate self-publishers. (S-60)

★★★★★

MINNESOTA WOMEN'S PRESS Vol. 4 #23-26 ($25/26 issues from 2395 University Ave., St. Paul, MN 55114): A newspaper by and for women — the Twin Cities being one of the few areas in the country that can yet support such a thing. #23 features the winners of the 1988 poetry awards, a profile of a local anchorwoman who's taken some flak lately, and an article on subtle racism seen by black women in the area. #24 has the winners from a recent fiction contest. In a rare move for a mostly-feminist magazine, #26 features both pro-choice and pro-life viewpoints. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE MONARCH #2-4 ($1 & a stamp from Laura Walker, 83271 N. Enterprise, Creswell, OR 97426): Laura has collected a pile of things that apparently interest or amuse her and has pasted them into large and dense collages. These include sixties photos, jokes from Reader's Digest, word searches, music and movie reviews, and who knows what else. With #4 some fanzine reviews and other articles have been added and the whole package enlarged. A slice of modern Americana. (D-16)

★★★★★

MONDO ATOMIC (75¢ from Gary Wray, 23118 Vanowen, West Hills, CA 91307): Harsh stark "comic": images of a future gone nuclear. All the usual paranoid dreams are here, of food from oil wells, deadly diseases, government coverups and more. (D-8)

★★★★★

MOTHER PEOPLE #39 ($3 from PO Box 6443, Bridgeport, CT 06606): A Frank Zappa fanzine, for the devoted fan. The format is pretty simple: reprinted news coverage and interviews from all over, with gossip and news filling the spaces in between. Pretty knowledgeable looking. (D-23r)

★★★★★

MOUSEMEAT ($3 from Mike, 7 Bride Hill Dr., Hampton, NH 03842): A skatezine with a smaller skatezine called **YIKES** tucked inside. The main feature is quite excellent photos, screened for good reproduction and featuring poses other than the stock ones. There's also mix and match newspaper clippings and some random thoughts on places the author has skated in the past. (S-15 & D-12)

★★★★★

MSRRT NEWSLETTER Vol. 2 #1-3 (45¢ stamp from Chris Dodge, 4645 Columbus Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55407): Put out by the Social Responsibilities Round Table of the Minnesota Library Association, this is a good place to go for references on social justice concerns. Besides mentioning various good causes and organizations and reviewing books, they feature a rapidly-growing magazine review section. This both includes things I miss and goes out to a batch of zine buyers who don't read **FF**. (S-20)

★★★★★

MUFON UFO JOURNAL #251 ($2.50 from 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155): A UFO investigation journal that's 20 years old and still going strong. #251 includes a look back at the Condon Report, some paranoid theorizing on the latest round of coverups, and a condemnation of "stewpot thinking", along with notes on current and historical sightings and UFO community news. (S-24t)

★★★★★

MUMBLES AFFORDABLES (SASE from John Eberly, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): A selection of disposable bits of literature, most with sort of a surreal humorous feel to them. **HAM** #2 and #3 focus on the pig and his meats, traveling the world in search of prepared pork. **SUSHI** is a music zine with a difference — the difference being that they don't seem to be living in the same universe as the rest of us. And **THE SPHINX** seems to make perfect sense sentence by sentence and none at all in the end. **THE ANDY GRIFFITH COMIC** features Mayberry toilet jokes, while **NOSTRIL** is a somewhat disgusting collage. (D-4r)

★★★★★

MURDER IN SOCIETY ($1.50 (?) from G.G. Allin, PO Box 704, Oak Lawn, IL 60454): Yes, it's the "Writings of G.G. Allin", and it's just as crude and disgusting as his music. Contents include some sort-of poetry, an interview (revealing his plans for public suicide 10/31/90), collage and scrawls. Scary stuff that probably should be Adults Only but I suspect GG doesn't care. (D-12r)

★★★★★

MURTAUGH #2 (3 stamps from Spike Vrusko, 29 W. Moler, Columbus, OH 43207): A weird mix of music and news. Only the news isn't really news, more like stream of consciousness written in news story format, making just enough sense to keep you reading and drive you mad at the same time. Interview with Blue, a batch of record reviews, nice collaged layout. (HL-16)

★★★★★

MUSIC FROM THE UNDERGROUND Vol. II #1 ($2 from John Sasaki, PO Box 3314, Stony Creek, CT 06405): A mostly metal fanzine, although they stretch the musical genre just a bit. #1 features interviews with Liege Lord, Manilla Road, Death and Witness, plus over 125 record & tape reviews. Solid and workmanlike. (S-24)

★★★★★

MUTT #1 ($1 from Jim Conatser, 2174 Chestnut-E, Des Plaines, IL 60118): A selection of somewhat childish comics, in a style somewhat reminiscent of Lynda Barry: deliberate modern primitivism. Lots of short bits here, mostly askance looks at how nasty life is. Includes a bonus postcard to distress your mailman. (D-16)

★★★★★

NADINE Vol. 5 #2 ($2 from 2365 Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520): A music zine that's somehow managed to become an official Yale activity. There's plenty of reviews here covering all facest of college taste, from U2 to My Dad is Dead on down to King Missile. Back cover sports a fIREHOSE interview. Pretty relaxed and humorous coverage. (T-16t)

★★★★★

THE NARCO DABA-DABA #6-9 (75¢ from Jon Lewis, 1420 E. Como Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55117): A collection of comics full of good old American misinformation. #6, among other things, tells the tale of what the world was like before color was invented. #9 explains the strange times when the TV weathermen went crazy. Delightfully skewed. (D-16)

★★★★★

N'APA #117 (Contact Tim Gatewood, PO Box 12921, Memphis, TN 38182-0921) The amateur press association for members of the N3F, the National Fantasy Fan Federation. This is only recently revived from the dead and is doing well already. Topics range widely, from Pogo to programming, comics to music, poetry to the space program — a general-interest apa. For more info on joining the group and the apa drop Tim a line. (S-125)

★★★★★

NCGR MEMBERLETTER Vol. V #11 ($2 (?) from 26 W. Susquehanna Ave., Baltimore, MD 21204-5278): For members of the National Council for Geocosmic Research, but it doesn't tell how to join the organization. It's devoted to what we used to call astrology, and features ads for comptuerized packages, notes on current research and, in an amusing twist, a psychological profile of the typical CSICOP member. (S-12t)

★★★★★

NEOLOGY #66 ($1.50 from ESFCAS, Box 4071, PSSE, Edmonton, Alberta T6E 4S8, CANADA): It's amazing that a science fiction club with only 15 active members can consistently put out a zine this good. Along with bits of news and convention reports, there are things like rules for the chess-like game of Ultima (substantially mutated from the version I have), a screed about the "paperless society", and Soviet SF news (a regular feature). (S-30t)

★★★★★

THE NEW ABOLITIONIST Feb. 1989 ($10/yr from Nuclear Free America, 325 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218): Nuclear Free Zones are still out there, and this paper tells you where to find them. It's sad to see the absurd lengths that elected officials will go through to ignore their constituents, or the cat and mouse games the DOE plays with activists to keep driving bombs around on our highways. (T-20t)

★★★★★

NEW AGE JOURNAL Jan./Feb. 1989 ($18/6 issues from PO Box 51162, Boulder, CO 80321-1162): The most outrageously New Age-ish thing about this slick magazine is the ads, featuring the expected number of crystals and miracle foods. Otherwise, it reads like a tome for hip yuppies: the insurance crisis, deprogramming cult members, a social upheaval caused by aging activists, and the best veggie-burgers make this issue. (S-112t)

★★★★★

NEW AGE LIVING Sept./Oct. 1988 ($2.50 from PO Box 22670, Kansas City, MO 64113): A collection of ideas and articles for the New Age, from people who know how to laugh at themselves — see the advice from Swami Beyondananda and the news of the Humongous Convergence in this issue. There's also herbalism, fasting, music, allergy remedies, dreams and "Sex and Spirituality" here. (S-19t)

★★★★★

NEW AGE WOMAN Vol. 1 #9 ($3 from PO Box 399, Maynard, MA 01754): "An independent publication serving women", this one is made up of short and relatively scholarly (i.e., they cite sources, which is more than most alternative publications do) essays. Topics include cultural attitudes towards rape, "spiritual nutrition", women's roles in society, and deinstitutionalizing sexuality. (S-8t)

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★★★★★

THE NEW COMMON GOOD Jan. 1989 ($7/yr from 131 E. 7th St., New York, NY 10009): A community newspaper from the lower east side of New York. In the January issue, the Tompkins Square riot is still reverberating, along with coverage of visual arts and theatre and articles on greed and nutrition. (T-20t)

★★★★★

THE NEW CRUCIBLE Dec. 1988-Apr. 1989 ($1 from Garry De Young, PO Box 7252, Spencer, IA 51301-7252): A collection of environmental and political speculations and reprints from our resident curmudgeon. Reading this will help you track Garry's various court cases and see his views on subjects from atheism to Saharization at greater length than they appear here. The April issue ranges as far afield as *The Satanic Verses* and law school admissions. (S-72)

★★★★★

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR WOMEN Vol. 18 #1 ($10/yr from 108 W. Palisade Ave., Englewood, NJ 07631): A very strong feminist tabloid. Their reporting is detailed, and covers well both cultural matters and very difficult stories about things like incest and domestic violence. The place of TV newswomen, high-tech motherhood, and women of Irish descent are just a few of the many topics covered in this issue. (T-24t)

★★★★★

NEW FRONTIER Feb. 1989 ($1.25 from 421 Fairmount Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19123): A New Age journal with a wide variety of topics, ranging from humor to serious stuff about macrobiotics and yoga to things difficult to take seriously like new age astrology. They also review books and music with the same ggeneral ideas and print lots of unbelieveable ads. (S-51t)

★★★★★

NEW LIFE Mar./Apr. 1989 $10/6 issues from Serenity Health Org, PO Box 1408, Ansonia Stn., New York, NY 10023): "For Those Who Want to Make a Change", this New Age journal concentrates mostly on personal life but gets into major issues like toxic waste as well. Topics include dietary fats and oils, chiropractic, astology, holisitc medicine, the wonders of garlic, and more. (S-50t)

★★★★★

THE NEW MOON DIRECTORY #1 ($3 from Eric Watts, 145 Peachtree Park Dr. NE #N-4, Atlanta, GA 30309-1308): Concise information on 143 different amateur press associations. Although this is #1, it's successor to the old **SOUTH OF THE MOON**, so there's a great deal of information here (though some is in drastic need of updates; #2 should fix this). If you're interested in finding some place to chat in print with people, this is the first place to check. (D-24r)

★★★★★

NEW OPTIONS #55-56 ($25/yr from PO Box 19324, Washington, DC 20036): A monthly survey of new ideas in the arenas of social and political change. #55 surveys a large number of movement activists for opinions on the current changes in Soviet society and their possible effects. #56 is more of a potpourri, ranging from affordable housing to world government to nut mail from disgruntled readers. (S-8t)

★★★★★

NEW PATHWAYS #14 ($5 from MGA Services, PO Box 863994, Plano, TX 75086-3994): Inside these dayglo green covers is a science fiction zine that's not afraid to do things differently. Oh sure, there are stories — Brian Aldiss, an excerpt from John Shirley's new novel, a fantastic tale of insanity from Steve Rasnic Tem — but that's only part of the story. There's also Matt Howarth's "Sonic Curiosity" comic music reviews, some SF in comic form itself, NASA technology, Paul Di Filippo's rude "Astral Avenue" column, and more. It doesn't all click for me, but the parts the work do so superbly and make the whole very much worth having. (S-70t)

★★★★★

NEW PLAYS & PLAYWRIGHTS Vol. III #1 ($2 (?) from Charles J. Likar, PO Box 14524, Chicago, IL 60614): A resource for theater in the Midwest and around the country. They interview playwrights, critique new plays, and try to track what's going on in the Chicago-are dramatic community. Rather specialized but certainly a class act. To top it off, the **NEW PLAYS & PLAYWRIGHTS NEWSLETTER** debuted in March, with 16 pages of information to tide things over between main issues. (S-20t)

★★★★★

NEWS & LETTERS Vol. 34 #1-3 (25¢ from 59 E. Van Buren #707, Chicago, IL 60605): As far as I know this is the only journal of Marxist-Humanism in existence — and as near as I can figure that means updating Marxism to pay at least some attention to the problems of women and minorities. Heavy on theoretical jargon, heavy on rousing calls to action, but (unless I've missed something) light on impact, this is a pretty typical faction paper. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THE NEW CRUCIBLE

A magazine of Man and his environment. $10 for 12 issues - PO Box 7252, Spencer, Iowa 51301-7252.

NEWS AND NOTES FROM ALL OVER Spring 1989 (50¢ from Society for the Eradication of Television, PO Box 10491, Oakland, CA 94610-0491): The slant of this one is pretty obvious: it's from and for folks who believe that television is at best dangerous and at worst addictive. It contains critiques of the medium, ideas on what to do without the tube, and a good deal of humor. (L-6)

★★★★★

THE NEW SETTLER INTERVIEW #38-39 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 730, Willits, CA 95490): A magazine of lighthearted (and serious) chats with folks from the Pacific Northwest. #38 is a special "Literary Issue", with poems and stories from a few dozen local writers. #39 has a fascinating talk with Ed Denson, practical anarchist and mail-order record publisher, plus Monty Levenson on making Japanese flutes in America. (S-56t)

★★★★★

NEWS FROM INDIAN COUNTRY Jan.-Feb. 1989 ($12/12 issues from Rt. 2 Box 2900A, Hayward, WI 54843): A Native American tabloid with some regional focus but lots of national information as well. They print short news bits, letters, cartoons and other items from the Native American side of our society, and do an especiallly good job of reporting on legal developments. (T-48t)

★★★★★

NEWS FROM THE MOTHER GROVE Vol. 2 #2 (SASE for info from ADF, PO Box 1022, Nyack, NY 10960): The networking newsletter of Ar nDraiocht Fein, the national Druid organization put together by P.E.I. Bonewits. The news here is mainly of internal interest: new Groves formed, people taking on various duties, and so on. But for your SASE they'll tell you about all their activities and publications. (D-16t)

★★★★★

THE NEWSLETTER OF TEMPORARY CULTURE Winter 1989 ($3 from H. Wessells 4, 277 Varick St., Jersey City, NJ 07302-4019): A charming collection of writings by the editor, some with a plot, some only vignettes and moods. My favorite in this issue is "Cairo Metro", about a cat-burglar who gets into trouble when he meets some of the old gods. (HS-18)

★★★★★

NEWSLETTER ON INTELLECTUAL FREEDOM Nov. 1988 ($25/yr from Subscription Dept., American Library Association, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611): A roundup of news about censorship, book burning, FBI demands for library records, protests against movies, suspensions of high school students, and other affronts to freedom of expression. There are a few success stories here, but overall it appears that things are getting worse and we need to fight harder if zines are not to be the next target. (S-40t)

★★★★★

NEWSLETTER WITH NO NAME Vol. 1 #6 ($5-$25/yr from Rosemary West, PO Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346): A collection of essays with some MENSA emphasis but no official connection. They range from serious explorations of communication and intelligence to Bailey Hankins' delightful "Hoss Peron Buys God" in #6. (S-18)

★★★★★

NEWSWATCH MAGAZINE Vol. 9 #5 (On Request from 11824 Beaverton, Bridgeton, MO 63044): Absolutely hilarious paranoid conspiracy Christian ravings. This is a special issue devoted to "The Truth About The American Civil Liberties Union", which proves to be that it was founded by Communists, Socialists and Anarchists as part of a plot hatched by the Bavarian Illuminati. So silly as to be nearly impossible to believe the guy is serious, but apparently he is. (S-19)

★★★★★

NEW UNIONIST #139-141 ($3/10 issues from 621 W. Lake St. #210, Minneapolis, MN 55408): A socialist paper which presses the view that the workers can organize and radically change the system. #139 examines the failure of free enterprise in the deregulation of the transportation industry. #140 concentrates on the continuing plight of women workers. #141 uses the Eastern Airlines mess as a case study to examine what's wrong with the labor movement as it stands in this country. (T-4t)

★★★★★

NEW YORK CITY POETRY CALENDAR Feb. 1988 ($15/12 issues from 60 E. 4th St. #1, New York, NY 10003): An extensive listing of poetry readings and workshops taking place in the New York City area. It takes them a poster-sized page just to get all the events of a month in. (S-4t)

★★★★★

NEW YORK PRESS Vol. 2 #2-13 ($25/yr from 530 Broadway, New York, NY 10012-3920): "New York's Free Weekly Newspaper," but worth paying for if you're out of the City, because they have fascinating feature articles alongside the reviews and local calendar stuff. #2 includes a look at the circulation battle between two Irish-American tabloids in the city. #5 rags on the infamous Howard Stern, while #7 looks into the Holland Tunnel. In #9 John Strasbaugh praises **THE DUPLEX PLANET**. #13 has a longish book review of the recent book **RANTS**. You probably can't take the pulse of a city the size of New York, but this one will give you some glimpses of it. (T-28t)

★★★★★

NEXUS Vol. 24 #2 ($3 from 006 University Ctr., WSU, Dayton, OH 45435): Much better than most university litmags I've seen. Except for some near-token zine and music reviews tucked away in the back, this collections of "Songs, Poems, Recitations..." is devoted to the interior states of the American West. The writers are mostly from that neck of the woods and their words give a feel of wide-open spaces, self-reliance, and the occasional absurdities involved in trying to "conquer" the land. An impressive aggregation. (S-63t)

* * *

NICARAGUA NETWORK NEWS Vol. 2 #3 ($10/4 issues from 2025 I St. NW #212, Washington, DC 20006): A newsletter from folks who are busy organizing humanitarian aid to Nicaragua. In particular, they're involved in shipping food to that country and also setting up work brigades — if you want to get personally involved in circumventing the trade embargo, this might be a good place to start. There's a smattering of news from Nicaragua, but it's all pretty rah-rah stuff. (S-16t)

* * *

NIGHTWATCH Vol. 4 #1-2 (Donation from Security & Intelligence Foundation, 2800 Shirlington Rd. #405, Arlington, VA 22206): A professional attempt to rehabilitate the image of the US intelligence community, primarily by arguing that the Soviet threat is immediate and major. They publish a lot of stories on KGB operations and capabilities and warn that we have to get our act together or face the consequences. Scary but somehow refreshingly different. (S-19t)

* * *

THE NOCTURNAL LYRIC #8 ($1.25 from Susan Ackerman, PO Box 2602, Pasadena, CA 91102-2602): A zine of creativity, whether it be expressed in story, poem, or artwork. There's been an editorial shakeup in #8 but it doesn't change the quality or freshness of the work here. These are writers who are definitely not stuck in ruts. (D-22r)

* * *

NO IMPACT #3 (50¢ from Silver, 424 Idaho St., Salem, VA 24153): A collection of collage and poetry that seems directed at the horror of modern life. Skulls and death run through these pages as an obvious subtext, and Paul Weinman's sardonicism dominates the poetry. Pullout collage poster centerfold. (D-16)

* * *

THE NOISE #80-82 ($10/yr from Timothy Maxwell, 74 Jamaica St., JP, Boston, MA 02130): "Rock Around Boston" is the tag here, and they do cover an awful lot of music from obscure Beantown locales. The staff also gets out to talk to scene personalities from radio DJs to (in #80) PHOENIX columnist Kris Fell. Volcano Suns and Ed' Redeeming Qualities appear in #80, along with all the gossip that fits. #81 has the results of their annual Boston music poll. #82 spotlights that comical band the Beeheads and their drinking problem. (S-24)

* * *

NOMOS Fall/Winter 1988 ($4.50 from 9857 S. Damen Ave., Chicago, IL 60643): Back after another change of editors, this libertarian zine is still going strong, and perhaps feistier than ever with the addition of some gun-toting types in this issue. There's also a look at the contributions of Murray Rothbard to the movement, a quick history of taxes in America, the implications of game theory for free individuals, and much more. Looking good, if a bit narrow. (S-50t)

* * *

NOOK NEWS Vol. 4 #4 ($2 from Eugene Ortiz, 10957 Chardon Rd., Chardon, OH 44024-9752): A support magazine for writers. It includes listings of conferences and klatch groups, advice on writing for and submitting to various markets, and more timely things like the tax advice in #4. Seems reasonably solid for the beginner while there might still be a few tidbits for the more experienced writer looking for new ideas. (S-12t)

* * *

NORTHERN SUN NEWS Vol. 12 #2-3 ($10/yr from 1519 E. Franklin Ave., Minneapolis, MN 55404): A social justice newspaper loosely centered on anti-nuclear activism. #2 includes notes on some recent civil disobedience actions, Central American reportage, and a special section on the problems of the small farmer. #3 has more farming and a look at militarism and women's struggles in Iran. (T-12t)

* * *

NOT BORED! #14-15 ($2 (?) from PO Box 8367, Ann Arbor, MI 48107): Back after a minor absence, this is Bill Brown's forum for the discussion, extension and critique of Situationist ideas. Contents of #14 include a response to a recent essay by Myriam Mayaan and a reprinting of the altered comic book "The Continuing Adventures of the Cowboy Philosopher". #15 recounts the history of several drawn-out confrontations at SUNY Buffalo over grafitti and various grad student publications. Rather academic in tone and hard to penetrate at times but fascinating nonetheless. (S-28)

* * *

THE NOTE Vol. 3 #7-8 ($1 (?) from 735.5 New Hampshire, Lawrence, KS 66044): A music zine focused onthe local Kansas scenes. #7 includes a note on a guy running for Mayor of Wichita with ties to the local scene. #8 looks at the problems of college radio and the efforts of Frank Zappa in fighting censorship. (T-24t)x

* * *

NOTE FOR NOTE #4-5 ($2 from Steve Roeser, 2646 1/2 Griffith Park Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90039): A music zine which looks at both classic rock and the modern LA club scene. Headlining #4 is an interview with Jackie Lomax, who played in Liverpool at about the same time as you-know-who. There's also a two-page spread of reviews of current blues albums and a chunk of live coverage. (S-12)

* * *

NOTES FROM THE DUMP #40-44 ($24/yr from Box 39, Acworth, NH 03601): This is Terry Ward's place for personal mutterings, from reflections on lean years in the past to notes on upgrading the recycling facilities at the dump. Restrained and unspectacular but fun to read — and a good source of the local news if you happen to need maple syrup or towing and you live near Acworth. Free firewood too, if you get out to the dump and haul it away. (S-6)

* * *

NOTES FROM OBLIVION #21 ("LETTER, or 50¢ stamps or cash" from Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Ln., Libertyville, IL 60048): This one's been missing for a while as continuing health problems have dragged down Jay's level of inspiration. This issue features some screwball comics and collages of headlines and magazine pics with a SubGenial feel to them. (S-4)

* * *

NOTHING ($1 (?) from 3000 Bill McDonald Pkwy. #6, Bellingham, WA 98225): A music zine that's centered on Northwest garage bands. Put out by members of Dust Blair, it has plenty of self-promotion, but also interviews with Nirvana and Panic and a few pages of disco reminiscence. The print is reduced past the point of illegibility on a few pages, unfortunately. (D-16r)

* * *

NOTHING BUT RECORD REVIEWS #6 ($2.50 from Seidboard World Enterprises, PO Box 137, Prince St. Stn., New York, NY 10012): Mykel Board's reviewzine of every record and tape he gets sent. In addition to the music, he adds classic videotape reviews this issue, and as always reprints the most outrageous parts of his mail. He's doing a good job of attending to the cassette and alternative scenes, and the reviews here are informative and eschew the usual critical habit of making fun of bad music. (S-34r)

* * *

NOT ONE OF US #4 ($4.25 from John Benson, 44 Shady Ln., Storrs, CT 06268): A collection of fantastic short stories and poems. There's some SF and some horror here, but mainly things in the fantasy genre (which of course is pretty wide). These range from Richard McGonegal's ghost story "Spirit of the Agreement" to Cliff Burn's disturbing psycho-tale "Public Enemy". A well-assembled collection. (D-70r)

* * *

NOVA EXPRESS Vol. 2 #2 ($3 from 1115 Drava Ln., Houston, TX 77090): A nice-looking SF fanzine that concentrates on new authors and current trends. #2 is the "Steampunk" issue, featuring interviews with and bibliographies of James Blaylock and K.W. Jeter. There's also a small pile of reader mail and a few reviews. Very readable. (S-28t)

* * *

NOW IS THE TIME! (Donation from The Evergreen Alliance, PO Box 02455, Detroit, MI 48202): A newsletter from a group fighting toxic waste in the Detroit area — more precisely, they're trying to shut down a new trash incinerator there. If they succeed it could considerably slow the rush to burn and maybe make recycling look like a better alternative to the powers that be. Turns out the ash from this thing is so toxic to be hazardous waste itself — which may spell economic doom for the trashburners. (S-6)

* * *

NOW WHAT Vol. 2 #1 ($1 *CASH/MO only* from 201 Evergreen St. #2-2A, Vestal, NY 13850): Pretty solid music coverage that seems to have less overlap with the current media darlings than usual. Interviews include Wishniaks, Indigo Girls, Santos, Tim Lee, and Christine Lavin. Music reviews hit selected majors as well as stuff from RAS, Channel 83 and other indies without too much coverage. Thoughtful for the most part and entertaining reading that doesn't try to position itself as the latest college radio clonezine. (S-46t)

* * *

NSA WORLD TRIBUNE #2722 ($4/4 issues from PO Box 1427, Santa Monica, CA 90406): The weekly paper of a big batch of Buddhists who follow the teachings of Nichiren Daishonin — you know, the "nam-myohoi-renke-kyo" fellow. They print occasional entry-level material, but mostly this is directed at the person who's already a believer and sprinkled with obscure foreign terms. Seems to be a pretty huge organization. (T-8t)

* * *

NUCLEAR MUTINOUS DOGS #2 ($1 from 30848 Maple Dr., Junction City, OR 97448): A nice Northern California/Southern Oregon fanzine. Besides the expected music and zine reviews, they have a batch of scene reports from relatively small towns, a fanzine of the month section and a bunch of interviews (including a great one with the Lookouts and another with Capitol Punishment). Lots of energy and it looks like they could stay for the long haul. (HL-32r)

* * *

OAK SQUARE #13 ($5 from PO Box 1238, Allston, MA 02134): A quality literary quarterly that's coming out twice a year in double issues for the time being. No wild SF or horror slashing here, just stories about real life, gentle and strong by turns. Casserin Toussaint's "What I Did on My Summer Vacation" and Randeane Tetu's "The Train" both explore the world of the young and the problems of trying to build a self in this issue. Nice design, a few photos and some poetry contribute to a solid read. (HL-64t)

* * *

THE OBLIGATOR Vol. II #2 ($1 from Mark Hodges, PO Box 915, Muskegon, MI 49443-0915): The most Christian of the Christian music zines with which I am familiar. Indeed, they print articles on faith or living well which have nothing to do with music, and the reviews are focused pretty exclusively on the genre. For the faithful, or those willing to entertain the idea, only. (S-12r)

★★★★★

OCEAN FREEDOM NOTES #1-9 ($3/set from Jim Stumm, PO Box 29, Hiler Branch, Buffalo, NY 14223): A collection of information for the adventurous person who would like to turn to the oceans of the world to escape excess government. Jim published the series from 1984 through 1988, and there's lots of leads here on where to go and how to survive there, though it's more of a brainstorm source than a detailed blueprint. Plenty of avenues for more research. (S-17r)

★★★★★

THE OCCASIONAL JOURNAL OF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR Vol. 4 #1 (35¢ *cash* from Geoffrey Fourmile, PO Box 419, Lafayette, CO 80026): A reasonably rational SubGenial publication; if you find that a contradiction in terms, you should get a copy. In #1, Fourmile considers the famous Dynamo & Virgin imagery from Henry Adams and suggests adding a third icon, the Dobbshead, to represent weirdness. He makes a good and surprisingly readable case for this. (HL-6)

★★★★★

THE ODINIST #118-119 ($8/8 issues from PO Box 1647, Crystal River, FL 32629): A journal of the old religions that's been taking its readers on a grand tour through the sweep of history lately, looking for the roots of Northern European culture. The other major serial has been titled "Against Capitalism, Against Marxism", though they haven't yet proposed the True Path between the major systems. You may want to be a bit cautious with these people; though their newsletter is relatively innocuous, they also run a book service which carries racial materials and Nazi histories. (S-10)

★★★★★

THE OFFENSE NEWSLETTER #85 ($1 or so from PO Box 12614, Columbus, OH 43212): A full page of Baboon Dooley is the intro to this personal zine of music, but the real meat is the extensive interview with Black Francis of the Pixies. There's also letters and record reviews, as well as the nominations in this year's poll. (S-13r)

★★★★★

OIKOS Vol. 2 #3 (R8/yr or send IRCs from PO Box 636, Stellenbosch, ZA-7600, SOUTH AFRICA): An ecological zine which is written in a mix of English and Afrikaans — unfortunately for my comprehension most of this issue is in the latter language. However, the antinuke comic needs no translation, and there are notes on a Steiner farming university, homeopathic education and a few other odds and ends in English. (A5-36)

★★★★★

ONE NIGHT STAIN ($1 (?) from Box 6704 Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1X5, CANADA): This one does not deign to explain itself, so we can only treat it as a work of art. It's got various comics and drawings, a few poems, and some stuff that can be interpreted as pro- or anti-feminist depending on your mood. Some drawings are coated with a strange pinkish stuff resembling dead Silly String; I have no idea how this was done or whether it causes cancer. (D-16t)

★★★★★

ON SITE #6 ($4/4 issues from Bob Bannister, 230 W. 105th St. #5C, New York, NY 10025): Sensible and knowledgeable music reviews, from a guy who's not afraid to be sincere most of the time. The main meat of this issue is an interview with Tom Paine from Live Skull, followed by news on some planned opera called "Pi". There's also a pile of record reviews plus Jeremy Epstein on film & music. (D-24r)

★★★★★

OPTIMAL Vol. 1 #1 (Stamp & Age Statement from PO Box 578159, Chicago, IL 60657-8159): A new zine of subconscious desires. The first issue came out for the 25th anniversary of the JFK assassination, and features a batch of pics from the films, shots of the car, and an alleged story from Jackie about Johnson's strange behavior afterwards. Curious. (D-12)

★★★★★

OPTION #25 ($3 from 2345 Westwood Blvd. #2, Los Angeles, CA 90064): A major indie music magazine which is getting slicker and more colorful but still stays somewhat in touch. #25 features an examination of the indie distribution crisis, as well as stories on Penelope Houston, Shinehead, Brazilian women musicians, and Siouxsie & the Banshees, to name a few. They also print record, tape and CD reviews and some regular columns. (S-138t)

★★★★★

THE ORACLE Vol. 1 #4 ($5/4 issues from R.K. West Consulting, PO Box 8044, Mission Hills, CA 91346): A newsletter for shareware users, from a shareware company that's had some products reviewed in FF. Besides updates on their product lines there's some helpful advice here for budding IBM-compatible computer users. (S-10)

★★★★★

ORDER BEING THE ADVERSARY ($1 (?) from Postwar USA, PO Box 21534, Long Beach, CA 90802): A collection of images and words from the surreo-subversive Postwar crew. These are prose poems and photos lending themselves to a feeling of alienation, a worry about the future. Pretty bleak, actually. (D-16)

★★★★★

THE ORIGIN #0 (50 ¢ from David Ingersoll, PO Box 15082, Santa Rosa, CA 95402): This one leads up to the radio team of Thunder & Lightning, starting with the Big Bang — then quickly moving through the ages with God. A curious minicomic that doesn't take its characters very far but is pretty fun on the way. (M-12)

★★★★★

THE ORIGINAL DONNA KOSSY'S KOOKS MAGAZINE #2 ($2 from PO Box 953, Allston, MA 02134; add $1 postage in the US, $2 in Canada, $3 overseas): All the nuts you ever wanted to read in one place. Donna is one of the prime collectors of kooks today, and in this collage-illustrated zine you can read both ravings and anlyses of those who don't quite agree with the world. Religious cranks, one-world-government folks, a guy who thinks he's God, and so on appear in their own stark insanity. (S-21t)

★★★★★

OTTERWISE Spring 1989 ($4/4 issues from PO Box 1374, Portland, ME 04104): An animal rights newsletter aimed at elementary-age kids. That means there's no particular philosophizing here, but stories about animals or the basic facts on them. The whole is designed to promote thinking of animals as living critters who deserve good treatment. Includes activities & recipes and lots of pictures. (S-8t)

★★★★★

OUTER SHELL #41-43 (SASE from PO Box 7053, St. Petersburg, FL 33734): A one-sheet music zine that consistently manages to avoid any wasted words. #41 has an interview with an anti-racist (though still homophobic) skinhead, the lowdown on Psychodrama, and a letter from the author of ELVIS ALIVE with snide commentary. #42 includes an interview with Dan Destructo of the band No Fraud. #43 considers the proper weapons for assassinating rock superstars. (S-2r)

★★★★★

OUT WEST #6 ($2.50 from PO Box 19894, Sacramento, CA 95819): "The Newspaper That Roams", this is Chuck Woodbury's continuing travelogue of the American West. He spends his time driving through small towns, taking pictures of giant dinosaurs or loose burros, eating at places with names like "Bee's Cafe", and investigating the strange and wonderful sights of the land and the people. Lots of fun, well-written and incredibly nostalgic for anyone who spent time on those same highways as a kid. Get it and get wanderlust. (T-40t)

★★★★★

OVERTHROW Vol. 10 #2 ($1 from PO Box 392, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013): In case you're late checking in, this is the tabloid of the Yippies, at least some of whom are still around. Protests and resistance are their raison d'etre, and their news slant tends to indicate that revolution is

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just around the corner. Some of the topics in this issue: curfew riots in NYC, marijuana legalization, saving the whales, feminist prisoners in West Germany, and revolt in Guatemala. Fun colorful graphics including a centerfold pro-dope poster too. (T-20t)

★★★★★

THE OWL CREEK JOURNAL #4 ($1 [*no cash*] from Sacred Earth Alliance, PO Box 545, Gambier, OH 43022): Newsletter of a group that combines a sort of home-grown paganism with a deep environmental consciousness. #3 is the "Smells of the Earth" issue, and it includes notes on Indian sweatlodge herbs and smudging, stories on wonderful interactions with nature, and some news from the Greenpeace BBS. (D-20t)

★★★★★

PAGANS FOR PEACE NEWSLETTER #39 ($15/13 issues from PO Box 6531, Stn. A, Toronto, ONT M5W 1X4, CANADA): A "blend of Pagan spirituality and Earth-centred activism", as they say in #39. This includes an essay on deep ecology, a response to recent attempts to sanitize the public image of pagans, and notes on student pagan clubs. The second edition of their Directory of Canadian Pagan Resources should be out soon. (S-8)

★★★★★

PALLAS SOCIETY NEWS Vol. 3 #4 ($8.50/4 issues from PO Box 18211, Encino, CA 91416): A pagan zine that concentrates on getting people together to discuss various facets of and issues in the Craft. In #4, a few people consider the phenomenon of "raising energy", and a few more talk about New Year's Resolutions. There are also poems, feature articles, and even some humor. (HL-54r)

★★★★★

PANARCHY, DIALECTIC #3 ($8/yr from LeGrand E. Day, PO Box 353, Reseda, CA 91335-0353): A newsletter devoted to popularizing the idea of panarchy — competing governments without territorial claims, so the individual can pick his own government. In #3 LeGrand gives some basic definitions and ideas in a loosely-organized manner. (S-10)

★★★★★

PANDORA #21-22 ($3.50 from Meg MacDonald, 2844 Grayson, Ferndale, MI 48220): A magazine of science fiction that concentrates on pleasant and mid-stretching stories, rather than horror, puns, or mad alien stereotypes. Todd Marvin's "Suicidal Necessities in the 21st Century" is the standout of #21; it's a tale that can stand powerfully without unneccesary tech-oid details. Tias Teng's "A Girl Like Tiadi" is also fun, a nice piece of fantasy with some rather *different* characters. Ted Reynolds contributes a short story of truly cosmic sweep to #22. Well-packaged and thoughtfully illustrated, they also feature short non-fiction and poetry. (D-44)

★★★★★

PAPERBACK PARADE #11-12 ($4 from Gryphon Publications, PO Box 209, Brooklyn, NY 11228-0209): A digest for collectors and readers of classic paperbacks. They range over many genres, with #11 including articles on Phil Dick's early works as well as the western Nevada Jim series. Some pricing info, some trivia, some notes on recent events in the field, and a lot of appreciation of old books. #12 is almost filled by a checklist of 1,000+ paperbacks with cover art by Robert McGinnis. (D-51r)

★★★★★

PARANOIS FREE PRESS #7 ($1 (?) from Von K. Lechner, 115 Coolidge Ave., Collingswood, NJ 08108): Von's rantzine is still going strong, and getting more interesting as he explains himself. #7 includes a history of his writing projects and some thoughts on friendship and materialism, as well as the usual load of collages. (S-10)

★★★★★

PARATHION ($2 (?) from Primal Publishing, 107 Brighton Ave., Allston, MA 02134): More journal entries by Dean Tetreault, a sequel to his very powerful **BLADE BARRIER**. There's still sharp harsh edges here but now more of the anger seems directed outwards than in — at McDonalds, at shiftless fathers, at poisoning the earth, and more. (D-15)

★★★★★

PEACE CORPSE #1 (75¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 0152): Doug keeps trying to draw a comic with a plot line and they keep getting away from him. This is no exception, with a batch of punk characters, some sort of post-Holocaust background, and entirely too much hopping around to make much sense. A very punk/gothic look, like most of his stuff. (S-7)

★★★★★

PEACE LETTER Vol. 26 #1 ($10/11 issues from Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008): This "Grassroots Monthly Promoting Peace and Social Justice" ranges pretty widely. #1 includes articles on the skinhead movement, the situation in Guatemala, and recent developments in the war tax movement. They also publish a local calendar and quick notes on other peace projects. (T-8)

★★★★★

THE PEACEMAKER Vol. 42 #1 (Donation from PO Box 627, Garberville, CA 95440): A newsletter for those determined to resist what they consider to be immoral actions on the part of the government. Their commitment ranges from tax resistance to nuclear resistance to draft resistance, and is backed up with a strong and steady faith. Inspiring and informative. (T-8t)

★★★★★

PEACEWORK #184-186 ($8/yr from AFSC, 2161 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, MA 02140): The peace and social justice newsletter of the American Friends Service Committee. #184 includes an interesting tale of a demonstration where the peace protestors actually *talked* to the National Guard recruiters, with surprising results. #185 has a page on Rock Against Sexism and some timely war tax resistance information. (S-16t)

★★★★★

PENGUIN DIP #22-23 ($15/10 issues from Stephen H. Dorneman, 94 Eastern Ave. #1, Malden, MA 02148): A combination science fiction and postal Diplomacy zine. Diplomacy is a wargame which is quite popular for playing by mail; here Dorneman moderates half a dozen games between various combatants. More comprehensible to most in #22 may be Lawrence Watt-Evans' article on EC comics and related topics, or Stephen's own fanzine reviews. Nice penguin on the cover too. #23 includes a basic *Blake's Seven* exegesis. (S-17)

★★★★★

PENT-UP OBSERVATIONS Vol. 1 #1 (contact Mike Furry #67000, Arizona State Prison, Cimarron Unit, 10000 S. Wilmot, Tucson, AZ 85777): Mike would appreciate donations, but you'd better write and ask how to send them first. This is a collection of personal observations on the world in prison and outside of it, including some ranting and raving and some humorous but (I hope) imaginary news stories. Ads for some worthy radical causes are also included. (S-16)

★★★★★

PEPTALK Vol. 5 #4 ($9/4 issues from PEP, PO Box 5247, Eugene, OR 97405): A newsletter for people interested in polyfidelity — perhaps best thought of as closed group marriages. There's a lot of exploration of alternatives and support here, together with stories form people who are making polyfidelitious relationships work. (S-8t)

★★★★★

PERSONAL POSSESSIONS ($1.25 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): There's two subtitles to this minicomic. The first, "A Visual Inventory" refers to the fact that it consists solely of small realistic drawings of dozens of things that Brad Foster owns. The second, "(Present and Purloined)" refers to a recent robbery, which forced crossing out many of the more expensive items. Lots of obsessive detail of a very strange life. (M-16)

★★★★★

THE PHOENIX'S NEW PAPER Vol. 2 #1-12 ($1 (?) from 131 Washington St., Providence, RI 02903): Providence's answer to "real" (i.e. establishment) newspapers, this one takes a progressive viewpoint on most subjects and their reporting is getting better. #1 is the 1988-in-review issue, of which the local music roundup is probably the best part. #2 features an interesting article on local Nazi youth. Would you believe Lou Reed and Tiffany in #3? #7 includes the state's sludge problem & a special home electronics supplement. #11 gloats over the Providence Journal's poor treatment of paper boys. You get the idea. (T-48t)

★★★★★

PHLOGISTON #19 ($1.50 from Graham Collins, c/o Physics Dept., SUNY at Stony Brook, NY 11794-3800): Graham is the US agent for this science fiction fanzine, which is really published by Alex Heatley in New Zealand. This is mostly words (which shouldn't be unusual in a community surrounding books, but somehow it is), ranging from speculations on the appeal of Star Trek to reports of conventions down under to horrible pun-filled short stories. Enjoyable if a bit dry in places. (A4-20t)

★★★★★

PHOTOSTATIC #34-35 ($2 from 911 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245): A magazine of experimental photocopy work, visual poetry, commentary, and what-not. Lloyd Dunn and friends continually explore the frontiers of literature, whether this be in visual, audio or printed works. Very good review section and some of the most serious critical theorizing being done in the area. Interesting Karen Eliot interview about the proposed Art Strike in #35. (HL-48t)

★★★★★

PINHED #6-7 (35¢ & a stamp from KMK Productions, RD #1, Box 468, Upper Black Eddy, PA 18972): A minicomic featuring a stick-figure based on a pin (other characters look like a safety pin, a needle, a thumb tack and so on). Basically pretty silly and lighthearted stuff. (M-16)

★★★★★

THE PIT #3 ($2 from Mosh Pit Records, PO Box 9545, Colorado Springs, CO 80932): A musical "Cata-zine", by which they mean a zine combined with a catalog for the stuff they sell (of which there is quite a bit). #3 constructs a "punk map of Colorado" by interviewing in quick succession 32 bands from the state, followed by longer talks with Sacred Reich and Exodus. They also review a batch of records. (S-42t)

★★★★★

PKDS NEWSLETTER #19-20 ($6/yr from PO Box 611, Glen Ellen, CA 95442): #19 is an unusual issue of the Philip K. Dick Society zine, since it was mostly written by Dick himself. What we have here is a preliminary outline for **OUR FRIENDS FROM FROLIX 8**, a rather minor (but sort of charming) pulp novel. This outline is significantly different from what finally got published and so of great interest to the hardcore Dickian. #20 is back to the more usual format, with tons of news, letters and recollections from those who knew Dick well, and another unpublished story fragment. (D-17r and S-20t)

★★★★★

PLAGIARISTIC TENDENCIES #4-6 ($1 (?) from Sara Edwards, Box 66, Rt. 16, Ischua, NY 14743): A medley of stuff, original and otherwise. In #4 Sara includes some poetry and a page from her yearbook, as well as things copied from **INSIDE JOKE** and other places. The bacover collage and her downbeat interior comic are both well-done. #6 is a medley of show posters, news pictures, and underground art. (S-8)

★★★★★

PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER #4 ($4 from Richard Freeman, 130 W. Limestone, Antioch, OH 45387): A zine which rambles. It opens with disjointed but fun diary entries from Richard, and then goes into other folks' work: collages, a comparison of heretic philosophers, short fiction, poetry, wrestling reports, and more. Very freewheeling, and a mammoth bundle for the price. (S-130)

★★★★★

PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER #247 ($1.50 from William S. Haupt, c/o Dorothy, 9405 Nies Dr., Waterford, PA 16441): Dorothy does the editing but make checks to William, OK? This is a stew of art and stories and comics and even music (interview with the Void plus some reviews in this issue). Some bits are very funny, for instance the Dali lava lamp. But there are also 3 extremely sexist pieces in #247, enough to leave a bad taste in my mouth when it was over. (S-32)

★★★★★

THE PLAIN TRUTH Apr. 1989 (Call 800-423-4444 for free subscription): Just thought it was about time to mention this again, the evangelical publication of the Worldwide Church of God. They'll send you tons of free stuff for the asking, on Serious Topics like sex and idolatry and tariffs and other things which can be settled using the Bible as a reference. (S-29t)

★★★★★

THE PLOWSHARES NEWSLETTER Vol. 6 #1 (Donation from PO Box 585, Orlando, FL 32802): A quarterly update on the various Plowshares actions in this country (and occasionally abroad): people standing up to the military machine in the name of Christianity. They report on new actions, legal defenses (both failed and successful) and the continuing trials of those behind bars for similar actions. (T-8)

★★★★★

POETRY EXCHANGE Vol. X #2 ($10/yr from PO Box 85477, Seattle, WA 98145-1477) A support & market newsletter for Seattle-area poets. They print a calendar of readings, radio and TV poetry, plus notes on contests and grants. (S-4t)

★★★★★

POLEMIC #2 ($2 from 70 High St., Leicester, ENGLAND): A combination of music and social activism. #2 includes interviews with Perjury and Advance Warning, plus articles and discussion on porn, capital punishment, AIDS, animal rights, and related topics. The letter column is particularly exciting, especially for such a young zine. Well worth a look — I'd like to see more zines like this done. (A5-20r)

★★★★★

POOT #13 ($3.50 from Sheridan, 3146 W. 82nd St. Up, Cleveland, OH 44111): A collection of short comics with a lovely hand-colored covers. Besides Sheridan's own bizarre and discomfiting strips, there's work by Jim Siergey, Luna Ticks, Carrie, Brad Foster, Dockery, R. Vaughn, and more. Topics range from bizarre de Sadean torture to the memories of childhood chairs. (D-36)

★★★★★

POPPIN ZITS! LITE (50¢ from Jerod Pore, 1800 Market St. #141, San Francisco, CA 94102): A collection of the collages which Jerod uses as the background for regular issues of PZ. Bits of technology and farm animals rub elbows with light pornography, advertising images, and the occasional tabloid headline here. (S-16)

★★★★★

POSITIVE ENERGY Vol. 4 #11 ($7.50/6 issues from 1533 Marion St. NW, Washington, DC 20001): A tabloid by and for African-Americans with overtones of both the New Age and Civil Rights. There's a lot of inspirational writing here, plus news on events and success stories. (T-12t)

★★★★★

POST CARD SLUT #1-2 ($1 from Hal Palmer, 5221 Sierra Oaks Dr. #102, Diamond Springs, CA 95619): A collection of postcards that range from mildly deranged to socially unacceptable. Some subjects in this bunch include Ted Bundy's body, enemas, drugs, junk mail, bondage and sex. Sample cards are available for 15 ¢ & a stamp. (S-5)

★★★★★

POTPOURRI #4-5 ($1 from Jenny Cousino, 273 Windsor Ct., Perrysburg, OH 43551): A pretty ambitious music zine that still needs to have a few bugs, like poor photo printing, ironed out. They manage to cover a lot of folks that have passed through the area lately in #4: MDC, Dead Milkmen, Skinny Puppy, Flesh for Lulu, and more. Long Warzone interview is the meatiest piece in #5. The views range from full interviews to stories centered on shows to quick photo essays. (HL-24r)

★★★★★

POUNDING TALES #6 ($14/4 issues from PO Box 14, Redfern, 2016 NSW, AUSTRALIA): A comic with some of the feeling of early **HEAVY METAL** (though not as orally fixated) — lots of technostrangeness and confusingly-plotted action. Offerings range from a masked avenger who wears a VW hubcap to hide his identity to Hunter Thompson meeting the *Close Encounters* ship. Wild and wonderful. (S-50)

★★★★★

THE PRAGMATIST Vol. 6 #4 ($10/6 issues from PO Box 392, Forest Grove, PA 18922): A basically libertarian newsletter which examines actual cases to demonstrate that we would be better off with less government and no taxes. In #4 the hidden costs of the proposed Phoenix public transit system are calculated, and Hans Schroeder presents an amusing encounter with the building-code bureaucracy. (S-16t)

★★★★★

THE PRAIRIE RAMBLER #138-140 ($1.23 from PO Box 505, Claremont, CA 91711-0505): Editor Jerry B. is collecting all sorts of wisdom and disseminating it in short bites. The range of sources is wide: from Lord Acton to Nipsey Russell, from the Bhagavad Gita to Hedy Lamarr. Worth curling up with and reading at leisure. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE PRINTER'S DEVIL #6 (On Request from Mother of Ashes Press, PO Box 135, Harrison, ID 83833-0135): Joe Singer is performing a wonderful service with this journal of "Graphic Arts for the Small Press". Between his own knowledge of offset, Fred Woodworth's column on typesettinng and other things, Colin Hinz on mimeography and smaller contributions from the rest of us, he's collecting both a lot of knowledge and a lot of folks to help answer questions. If you do your own printing, or take an interest in how it's done, you must get a copy of this. (S-20t)

★★★★★

PRINTER'S INK Vol. 4 #4 (On Request from Thomson-Shore, PO Box 305, Dexter, MI 48130-0305): Everything you always needed to know about short-run book printing but didn't know where to ask. TS sends this out to drum up business, but along the way they drop all sorts of useful hints. #4 discusses bluelines, the most economical sizes for binding, laser-printed copy, and paper price increases. (S-4t)

★★★★★

THE PROGRESSIVE PRAGMATIST Vol. III #5 ($12/8 issues from Nicholas J. Nigro, Jr., 3214 Tibbett Ave., Bronx, NY 10463): A basically liberal zine of political commentary. In this issue Nigro muses over Reagan and allows how Bush might be worse, looks at the fall of the Shah of Iran, and considers some perennial Presidential losers. Lightly written and fun to read even when I don't agree with it. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE PROJECT Vol. V #4-Vol. VI #2 ($2 (?) from A-Albionic Consulting & Research, PO Box 20273, Ferndale, MI 48220): Serious conspiracy research, taking the position that the British Empire has had much to do with shaping history behind the scenes for some centuries now. They deal with everything from CIA-LSD experiments to Mae Brussell's death, and are rather good at providing reviews that poke holes in the books of conspiratologists with opposing theories. They also sell lots of rare books for those who care to follow along. (S-6r)

★★★★★

PROJECT X #7 ($7.95/yr from 330 E. 38th St. #25H, New York, NY 10016): A somewhat self-conscious chronicle of the trendy people and trendy places in ever-trendy New York. There's some music Coverage, strange features (Pat Schroeder? A trip to Venezuela?) and things like an astrology column, but the focus is on gossip and photographs of the current club scene. (S-28)

★★★★★

THE PROTECTORS #2 ($2.50 from Jeff Smith, 2106 Tradewind Dr. #182, Mesquite, TX 75150): The second of a three-part superhero comics series. The heroes are in bad trouble here, two captured and the third seriously injured by the nefarious Finch (that's his name — he's definitely not a bird) who is grinding the world under his heel. Doesn't stand well alone, but as part of the series ($6 for all three) it's pretty good. (S-28)

★★★★★

PSEUDO'ZINE #5 ($3 from GGE Records, PO Box 5088, Kent, OH 44240): A combination music zine and tape. On the tape we have two cuts from Plastic Eye Miralce and one instrumental jam from Art Control, who is also reviewed in the written part. Eerie offshoots from the pop trunk. The zine also includes interviews with a batch of cassette producers, about the business and what the problems with it are. A good job. (D-32r & tape)

★★★★★

THE PSYCHOTHERAPY OF STUTTERING ($1 from Paul Hurst, 88 Ruthven St., Bondi Junct. 2022, Syd. NSW, AUSTRALIA): That's a postpaid price for this little booklet, which appears to be serious though a bit disjointed. It features drawings by severe stutterers with learned commentary. Seems to be mail art made by taking something verbatim from the literature. (D-12)

★★★★★

PUBLIC ENEMA #1 (25¢ stamp from Ted House, 235 N. Spring St., Greensboro, NC 27401): A small screed of mixed SubGenial and Discordian ideas together with some home-grown paranoia. Promotes anarchy and disrespect for the system while leaving the eerie feeling that someone is watching over your shoulder. (HS-4)

★★★★★

PWA COALITION NEWSLINE #40-41 ($20/yr [Free to PWA's/PWArc's] from PWA Coalition, 31 W. 26th St., 5th Fl., New York, NY 10010): The publication of a large support group for People With AIDS. They publish memorials, medical information (lots of it, without necessarily sticking to the "official line"), lists of resources in New York City, and much more. Useful and at times controversial. (S-64t)

★★★★★

PWALIVE Vol. 2 #2 ($5/yr from PO Box 6089, Minneapolis, MN 55406): A support newsletter for people living with AIDS, whether they be HIV-positive, family members, or actual AIDS victims. They provide some notes on alternative therapies and plenty of referrals for services and support in the Twin Cities area. #2 carries a long article on the special problems of women living with AIDS. (S-19t)

★★★★★

PYROTECHNICS #40-41 ($4/4 issues from Mary Lynn Johnson [but make checks to Connie Trembley & note "for PYRO" on them], 901 Lorlyn Dr. #3B, West Chicago, IL 60185): The newsletter of General Technics, a group of science fiction fans who are into technical fun: strange electronics, improvised airships, high explosives, whatever. From #41: "Techies' ideas of fun seem to consist of doing, on a grand scale, all those things our mothers wouldn't let us try as children, because they were too dangerous." But at least they're sensible, which is more than I can say for most amateur "science" zines. (S-10t)

★★★★★

Q.M. Vol. III ($20/4 issues from Robert A. Devoe, 77 W. Encanto Blvd., Phoenix, AZ 85003): In this case that stands for Quantum Metaphysics, "an open forum for philosophy, mysticism and the Arts." Contents include a theosophical guide to the first chapter of the Bhagavad Gita, a short story about an ethical problem in future life, and a folio of runic writings by a close-mouthed sage. Not New Agey, but rather a link back to previous generations of mystical study and exploration. (S-64)

★★★★★

QQRYQ #12 (Piotr Wierzbicki, Przasnyska 14 m 63, 01-756 Warsaw, POLAND): I'm not sure how recent this is or what it costs, but those of you into research can try sending a buck or two U.S. cash and see what happens. This is a music zine, all in Polish, and mostly covering eastern european groups, though there is some international news as well. (A5-20r)

★★★★★

QUIMBY #15 ($3 from PO Box 281, Astor Stn., Boston, MA 02123): This arts magazine has a new look, having shrunk a bit and integrated the comics back into everything else. Cryptic hints of a management shakeup are dropped but nothing definite emerges. Anyhow, they print bizarre and sometimes pointless comics, fancy art pieces (like Robert Siegelman's untitled monotype in this issue)strange short stories and even an excerpt from **THE DUPLEX PLANET**. (S-36t)

★★★★★

R.A.D. #44 ($1 from Juliet Jake, PO Box 867, Morro Bay, CA 93442): Central california punk rock and associated topics. The main feature in #44 is a long interview with Trees of Mystery. There's also comics, updates on the New York City postering case, a bizarre public service announcement, and music and book reviews. (HL-20r)

★★★★★

RADIO FREE THULCANDRA 16 ($2 or The Usual from Marty Helgesen, 11 Lawrence Ave., Malverne, NY 11565): A zine for "Christian Fandom": that is, science fiction fans who also happen to be Christians or, in the case of some of the letter-writers, who want to argue with Christians. Topics include works of SF with Christian content, ways to witness at cons, and the laws of thermodynamics. (S-36)

★★★★★

RADIO VOID Winter 1989 ($5/4 issues from PO Box 5983, Providence, RI 02903): A litmag that's free locally but selling subs to expand its circulation. The centerpiece this time around is Mark Carter's somewhat bizarre play "Disillusion", a clashing of life and religious impulses. There's plenty else as well, mainly stories with a few sprinklings of poetry, and some curious photography as well. Walter Ness provides some fun vignettes from his barhopping world. Good variety and electric feel. (S-32t)

★★★★★

THE RAG #10 (Donation from PO Box 3038, Peoria, IL 61614): An open forum for creativity in the Peoria area. Most of the contents are either music or politics related, or comics and drawings. There's a sort of psychedelic feel to most of the art, and an underground pun/Grateful Dead spin to the music. Looking for stuff from locals to help build up the scene. Definitely an antidote to apathy. (T-12)

★★★★★

RAGE MAGAZINE Feb. 1989 ($12/yr from 1836 W. Cumberland Ave., Knoxville, TN 37916): A tabloid associated with the University of Tennessee and definitely directed at the college crowd. The central theme of this issue is Valentine's day, with all the associated articles: how to use a condom, how to use a dating service, what not to say to your date. A mix of advice to teens and "party hearty" mentality. (T-30t)

★★★★★

RAGS TO RICHES Apr. 1989 ($9.95/yr from 101 Convention Center Dr. #1250, Las Vegas, NV 89109): You know those "Get rich quick" ads that promise to make you a millionaire in a few months? Well, that's what most of this publication is, along with a few feature stories (featuring, among other things, an imperfect command of the English language) to fill out the package a little. I found this uproariously funny and a bit sad. (S-64t)

★★★★★

RAIN #4 ($2 *CASH* from PO Box 2460, Chicago, IL 60690): A music zine that somehow manages to have staff members in Washington, Illinois and Australia and still puts out a pretty tight product. To top off the confusion the lead interview is with Images of Spirit, a band from Belgium. Sockeye and Buttercup are also featured here, as well as ads and reviews of other zines and a page or two about FBs, which appear to be a sort of mail art pen pal spinoff. (S-22r)

★★★★★

RAINBOW BRIDGE Vol. 6 #1 ($5/yr from World Works, PO Box 42755, Tucson, AZ 85733): A bit of New Age mummery, full of peace and love and absolutely full of rainbows, as well as all manner of geometric entities — sort of like Bucky Fuller overdosed on cuteness. Obviously it all makes sense to the author but I wonder whether anyone else is other than amused. (S-4r)

★★★★★

RAMBLIN' WILLIE'S BROADSIDE ($2/yr or one stamp for a sample from PO Box 642, Winterville, GA 30683): A small personal sort of zine that doesn't have a lot to say but says it amusingly. They're interested in folk music, postcards, beer, and who knows what else. The issue at hand lists some of the worst records of all times. (S-4)

★★★★★

THE RAT RACE RECORD Vol. 1 #4 ($1 from Conny Jasper, PO Box 1611, Union, NJ 07083): A small journal of opinion and argument. #4 is mainly focused on animal rights, starting with reasons not to eat meat, moving into tofu recipes and a look at "humanocentrism". There's also a few pages on holistic massage as well as book and music reviews. (S-18)

★★★★★

THE RAVEN #2-3 ($1.50 from PO Box 295, Schertz, TX 78145): Well, there's some music focus here, but more of a punk literature feel. Short stories and poetry about such cheerful topics as murder, suicide, rape, and child molestation prevail here. Pretty grim view of the world. There's also music reviews and a few interviews — Dead Milkmen and Bowel Movement in #3. (S-24)

★★★★★

REACCIONES #27 ($10/4 issues from Apartat 36098, 08080 Barcelona, Catalunya, SPAIN): A zine for enthusiasts of mod and related music. Printed in both Spanish and English, #27 has two pages of scooters, some history of Northern soul, and coverage of bands like Ragtime, Bag One, and Bisontes. For one IRC they'll send you their newsletter **EN MI CIUDAD**, describing their back issues in greater detail. (A3-40r)

★★★★★

READ ME Vol. 2 #1 ($5/yr from 1118 Hoyt Ave., Everett, WA 98201): A very friendly and down-to-earth literary zine. Besides stories and articles, they offer a number of cute features, including cartoons in need of captions and mysteries to solve. Also of note is the "Contentions" column, inviting opposing viewpoints — this time the National Abortion Rights Action league and Human Life of Washington respond to a series of questions on abortion. Quite enjoyable overall. (T-24t)

★★★★★

REAL GOODS NEWS Spring 1989 ($6.50/yr from 3041 Guidiville Rd., Ukiah, CA 95482): A catalog for alternative energy (solar, wind, hydro, propane...) types that manages to be good reading, since the company maintains a personal image. There's a lot of info on products here, as well as complete systems, 12 volt irons, and lots more. They'll even do some design work for you. Great color covers by Winston Smith too. Get this if you have the faintest inclination to get off the power network. (S-76t)

★★★★★

THE REALIST #109 ($2 from PO Box 1230, Venice, CA 90294): It appears that the writers at this underground humor and satire sheet have found their prime target for the forseeable future: good old Dan Quayle, an unending mine of jokes. #109 also has Ted Schultz on the perils of talking to both New Agers and scientists, and a weird piece on Ted Bundy and the media, plus lots of one-liners. Laughing in the growing darkness. (S-8t)

★★★★★

THE REALITY ISN'T REALISTICALLY REAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #2 (50¢ (?) from Slimy P. Vomit, 1625 Douglas St., Sioux City, IA 51104): A mix of ranting and collage art, revolving around the idea that reality isn't. This issue features some Freudian revisionism and an anti-SubGenius screed. Pretty skimpy as it stands but looking for contacts and contributors. First zine I've ever gotten bound with a safety pin. (S-8)

★★★★★

REAR GARDE #30-31 ($1.50 from PO Box 1421, Stn. H, Montreal, QUE, H3G 2N4, CANADA): A really nice music tabloid that seems to have gelled somewhere in the past half-dozen or so issues to be a very class act. Centered on the Montreal scene, they manage to publish a bunch of good interviews in each issue: Cro-Mags, Voivod, and Skinny Puppy were my favorites in #30. They also track local events and provide a fair batch of reviews. (T-28t)

★★★★★

RED RASPBERRY #1 ($1 from U.S.F. #3146, Tampa, FL 33620-3146): A new zine of radical opposition to the system. They propose to fill some of the gaps in the mainstream media coverage of the country, pointing out that democracy isn't especially nice, that the cops in Miami are still shooting people, and that People's Park doesn't really belong to Berkeley in this intro issue. (D-24r)

★★★★★

BRIAN JAMES RIEDEL

Brian sent me a whole pile of small comics, with a nice consistent style to them — artistically a lot better than much of the small comics press. They're 75¢ each from him at 2009 Argyle #6, Hollywood, CA 90068.

•**BUNKHOUSE TALES**: This one features a couple of quick and silly vignettes of the old west, including a greenhorn cowboy who loses his aplomb when he finds out what goes into sonofabitch stew. (D-8)

•**FABION** #1-6: Brian's main title. It's great stuff, mostly screwball or sick humor in one-page doses. I'd like to have some of these blown up for me wall, like "The Exterminator" from #4, about a guy who gets rid of mice in a disgustingly effective way. Try this one, you won't regret it. (D-8)

•**MY SKIN TOUCHED MONKEYS!!**: A selection of full-page drawings, including caricatures of the Minutemen and Husker Du, a few folks whose minds have snapped, and some other random stuff. (D-8)

•**SCREAMIN' BLACK MONKEYSPIT**: More drawings, this time with Mission of Burma, R.E.M., and a deadly Godfearing nun influencing small children, as well as a few other childhood nightmares. (D-8)

•**ZOMOID**: Looks like a kiddy book, and it's even marked to tell you you can color it yourself, but I don't think your mother would approve of the homicidal adventures of this pussycat. (D-4)

★★★★★

RELIGION WATCH Vol. 4 #4-6 ($15/11 issues from Richard Cimino, PO Box 652, North Bellmore, NY 11710): A roundup of news about "Trends in Contemporary Religion". Rich wades through a wide spectrum of the religious press and then boils it down in a very readable and informative fashion. #4 leads off with a look at the crumbling of the large-scale structures of mainline Protestantism, but gets to everyone from the Krishnas to the Unificationists of the Hindus inside. (S-8)

★★★★★

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM ALERT Vol. V #1-4 ($15/yr from Coalition for Religious Freedom, 325 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Washington, DC 20003): Now in a new magazine format, this is an excellent source of news about run-ins between religion and government. While they are very concerned to protect the rights of new religions (what some call "cults"), they also report on things like the Quaker suit agains the INS and various bits of religious civil disobedience around the land. (S-16t)

★★★★★

RELIGIOUS SOCIALISM ($5/4 issues from PO Box 80, Camp Hill, PA 17011): This one comes from the Religion and Socialism Commission of the Democratic Socialists of America. That's a mouthful, but it mostly means folks who want to combine the spiritual compassion of their religious views with the economic compassion of their political views. Much of the current issue is devoted to looks forward and back on the eve of the Bush presidency. (S-11t)

★★★★★

RELUCTANT SADIST #7 ($1 from Hal Weaver, 501 Dunmore St. #F, Norfolk, VA 23510): Strangely psychoactive comics that break free of some of the usual molds. The central strip here, "Dry With the Threadbare Towel", gets across its point with allusion, scraps of notebook pages, and illustrations rather than any coherent story. The back cover, "Padded Cell Blues", is a frightening excursion into realms self-referential. (D-12)

★★★★★

RENAISSANCE FAN #5 (The Usual from Rosalind Malin and Dick Pilz Jr., 2214 SE 53rd, Portland, OR 97215): The science fiction zine with the beautiful hand coloring and little stickers. This time around the theme is "transportation", from stories of Dick's job blowing up truck fuel tanks to Roz's flying lessons to fiction centering on future means of moving about. Beautiful and wonderful as always. (S-23t)

★★★★★

THE REPEAL OF DECORUM Vol. 4 #1 (50¢ stamps from WRPI, 1 WRPI Plaza, Troy, NY 12180): The program guide and music review zine of the RPI college radio station, a progressive environment which is currently under attack by yammerheads who want more top-40 sludge (as if there wasn't enough of that in this area already). Support alternative radio and this zine. #1 has Steve Thompson musing on the prospects of punk and industrial music. (S-32t)

★★★★★

THE REPORT #52-53 ($10/5 issues from Pulphouse Publishing, PO Box 1227, Eugene, OR 97440): "A magazine for, about, and with writers", this is a chummy place for the serious writer of SF, fantasy, and related genres. They track market news, suggest ways to increase one's output, and engage in some friendly competition to move stories along. Looks very useful for someone willing to actually work at this craft. #53 has an extensive rundown of current markets. (D-40t)

★★★★★

RESOURCE CENTER BULLETIN #16 ($5/4 issues from Inter-Hemispheric Education Resource Center, PO Box 4506, Albuquerque, NM 87196): This is from a group which tracks US foreign relations with third world countries. This issue contains a survey of the private conservative policy groups that have proliferated under Reagan, with some guesses as to what the Bush years hold. They also distribute a number of books on our policies and their impact on Central America. (S-8t)

★★★★★

RESTORE #1 (25¢ from Mike Thain, 621 Bassett Rd., Bay Village, OH 44140): A small and new entry on the music scene, this one has big plans but as yet not much content. The centerpiece of #1 is an interview with Cleveland's Spudmonsters. There's also an article about the dangers of cereal advertising which may or may not be tongue in cheek. (D-16)

★★★★★

REVISIONIST LETTERS Vol. 1 #1 ($4 from Bradley R. Smith, PO Box 931089, Los Angeles, CA 90093): A forum for discussion of the WWII Holocaust, primarily focused on the central question of Holocaust Revisionism: whether it happened or not. I regret to say (because I know it will outrage people) that it is exceedingly well-done and thought-provoking. While the initial issue contains mainly work from those who question the Extermination thesis, they invite (sincerely, I believe) rebuttals and debate from believers. I can't see anything to gain from suppressing an attempt to examine closely part of history, which this is. (S-32t)

★★★★★

THE RIGHT TRASH #1 ($1 (?) from Rich Oliver, 20-21 Utopia Pkwy., Whitestone, NY 11357): A new hardcore music zine that concentrates on the New York City area scene. This intro issue gets into All for One, Fit of Anger, Our Gang and lots of shows. Plenty of meat but tedious to read due to Rich's habit of dividing words between lines any old place. (S-24r)

★★★★★

RI MOBILIZATION FOR SURVIVAL NEWSLETTER March 1989 ($10/yr from RI Survival Education Fund, PO Box 2534, Providence, RI 02906): Traditional activism from Rhode Island. Concerns include a comprehensive test ban, AIDS volunteerism, fighting the war in Central America, anti-nuke demonstrations, and war tax resistance. Lots happening on their calendar. Full membership is $60/yr. (T-8t)

★★★★★

RIPPING HEADACHES #7 ($2 (?) from Bruce Davis, 10314 Cliff Cir., Tampa, FL 33612): A music zine aimed at metalheads and related species of listeners. Groups interviewed include such charming folks as Fatal Blessing, Skeletal Earth, Devastation, and Vomit. There's also some gripes about being discriminated against by the cops and some record reviews and gossip. (S-41)

★★★★★

ROBZINE #10 (Free, but "postage appreciated" from 340 Sunnyside Ave., Toronto, ONT M6R 2R6, CANADA): A skatezine from a place where it was too cold to skate while this issue was being printed. That's OK, since Rob still managed to find a heap of cool skateboard pics & get them screened so they'd print well, and then write curiously ambiguous prose to go along with them. Like shooting the breeze with an old friend, only you won't get all the jokes here. (D-16)

★★★★★

ROCK CITY NEWS Vol. 6 #5 ($30/yr from 6715 Hollywood Blvd. #208, Hollywood, CA 90028): Club-centered mostly-metal music news from what is apparently the world's center for men with blowdried hair. There seem to be more pictures than words here, though they do manage interviews with Pretty Boy Floyd and profiles of more artists, as well as lots of gossip. Good calendar of what's happening in the clubs with a layout that gives it room. (T-61t)

★★★★★

THE ROCKET Feb.-Mar. 1989 ($12/yr from 2028 5th Ave., Seattle, WA 98121): Local tabloid music coverage that manages to be pretty interesting even though I miss the sort of interaction with bands and fans you get in smaller zines. Besides music from Ronnie Spector to the Cowboy Junkies they have local commentary & schedules, as well as film and video columns. The March issue looks at the stereo systems of the (locally) rich & famous. (T-40t)

★★★★★

THE ROGUE RAVEN #38 (Probably the Usual from Frank Denton, 14654 - 8th Ave. SW, Seattle, WA 98166): Frank is one of those folks who seems to be publishing mainly out of inertia, despite increasing distance from the SF fandom where he started. Despite this, RR is enjoyable as a trip through life, with some notes on literature and more on day-to-day events. Frank's a volksmarching enthusiast; if you're interested in "non-competitive walking" he'd love to hear from you. (S-10)

★★★★★

ROLLIN UNDER #17 ($4 from PO Box 17590, 54009 Thessaloniki, GREECE): A quite impressive music and counterculture zine, all in Greek.

#17 includes features on Siouxsie and the Banshees, Radio Birdmen and Marc Almond, as well as a batch of Europeans. They also review lots of records including many classic 60's items, plus fanzines from all over. #17 includes a 3-track single from Ora Mithen, pressed on hard vinyl and with a powerful rocking sound. (S-67r)

★★★★★

THE ROOSEVELT A-WORD #9 (Donation from PO Box 1083, Wheaton, IL 60189-1083): A fun and friendly high school underground newspaper. This issue features a report on their fundraising coffee-a-thon (Brad managed 20 cups, almost as many as I used to drink every day) and a Naked Raygun interview, as well as poetry, comics and opinon. Remember how broke you were in high school? Well, they're worse off because of printing costs, so be generous. (S-6t)

★★★★★

THE RUBBER FANZINE Vol. 4 #1 ($1.70 from J.C. Palmer c/o Rudi Rubberoid, PO Box 2432, Bellingham, WA 98227-2432): All the rubber stamp art you can safely make use of under the new Federal regulations. No, I don't know what that means but it's in the spirit of silliness that pervades this zine. #1 has quite a few hearts, as it came out for valentines, but there are also dinosaurs, Irma, and anti-Teddy Bear propaganda within. (S-20)]

★★★★★

RUBBER PUPPY #1-2 ($1 & 2 stamps from Bill Bohrer, 2309-D Pruett, Austin, TX 78703-4349): A zine of comics and screeds. There's a lot of humor here, and somehow the mostly-primitive art doesn't seem to detract from it. Bill also gets in a few licks at the local police agencies, who apparently are in the habit of harassing kids who don't look straight. #2 also institutes a "Book pReviews" department, for books that haven't been written yet. (D-20)

★★★★★

RUFFLED FEATHERS (50¢ from PO Box 2565, Cambridge, MA 02238): A minicomic subtitled "The Poet pursues the Pullet Surprise". It features R.U. Outavit in a play without words, chasing some crazy top-hatted bird and ending up in hot water with a pitchfork at his tail. (M-8)

★★★★★

RUNE #79 ($2 or The Usual from PO Box 8297, Lake St. Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55408): The clubzine of Minn-STF, the big science fiction fan society in Minneapolis. Their major hallmark is silliness; there's several articles on vegetables and assorted disgusting recipes as the centerpiece of this issue. They also print lots of locs, babble a bit about computers, and let John Purcell delve into the history of Minneapolis fanzines. Solid but not too exciting. (S-56t)

★★★★★

RURAL NETWORK ADVOCATE #62-64 ($10/yr from Route 2 , Box 150B, Gays Mills, WI 54631): A combination of matchmaking and support system for singles in rural areas (though married folks may subscribe as well, just not join the profile-exchange system that puts them in private contact with other members). Sharing ideas and experiences is at least as important as meeting here. Lots of folks write in about how they make it in the boondocks, from the ethics of living to the making of maple syrup. (S-8)

★★★★★

SACA NEWS Vol. 5 #1 ($15/yr [$7/yr for students] from PO Box 15588, Washington, DC 20003-0588): The publication of the Student Action Corps for Animals, a (mostly) high-school and college age group that's trying to push animal rights issues in the schools. Their #1 concern is stopping dissections in biology classes, or at least demanding alternatives for students who refuse to participate, but they're also active in a variety of anti-fur, vegetarian and other actions. Lots of networking here and reasonably encouraging news in many cases. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE SACRED COW NEWSLETTER Mar./Apr. 1989 ($1 from Barbara Koksal, 3392 Clemens Dr., St. Charles, MO 63301): A freewheeling discussion forum loosely associated with Mensa and adhering to strict anti-censorship principles. Topics include homosexuality and AIDS, men vs. women, intelligence differences between men and women, Holocaust revisionism, crime and how to fix it, and other hot potatoes. The editor stands willing to protect anonymity for people who want to say really outrageous things. (D-24r)

★★★★★

SACRED EARTH NEWS Winter 1989 ($1 from XAT Medicine Society, 1404 Gale Ln., Nashville, TN 37212): A Native American paper which ranges widely over the traditions of North and South America. They're extremely active in prison support work, as well as organizing people on the outside and helping them find the traditions they want. (T-15t)

★★★★★

SALON #4-5 ($2 from 305 W. Magnolia #386, Fort Collins, CO 80521): "A Journal of Aesthetics" which is focused mostly on our sort of small-scale, independent art. They publish art and cartoons (advice on how to avoid becoming an artist in #4) and hand out "warm fuzzies" and "cold pricklies" for the local arts community. There's also poetry, book and movie reviews, and a bit of theoretical musing. #5 features "Godot Shows Up", an amusing playlet by Aleox Van Dyne, and a whole selection of articles on collecting and the collecting urge. (S-66)

★★★★★

SALVAGE #2 (3 25¢ stamps from Manter & Co., 3833 Concord Bridge Rd., Virginia Beavh, VA 23452): A computer-drawn comic featuring busty Maggie McGuire, freelance recoverer of stolen property, and Paul Simmons, a ghost who was murdered a hundred years back. In #2 they eliminate a couple of suspects from further consideration, but then Maggie gets picked up by some thuggish cops. (D-8)

★★★★★

SAM & MAX FREELANCE POLICE SPECIAL #1 ($2.75 from Comico, 1547 DeKalb St., Norristown, PA 19401): Imagine a couple of cute and cuddly comic characters — a dog and a rabbit, to be exact. Now imagine them with guns and a sense of humor that once belonged to Art Carney. Now throw them into a road trip with giant prairie dogs, haunted Stuckeys, engine rebuilds, stuffed dinosaurs, bad food, sleeping in the car and squeaky styrofoam ice chests, as well as senseless violence (they *are* police, after all). Now throw away your imaginings and buy this, because it's more bizarre than anything you could possibly conjure up yourself. (S-40)

★★★★★

SANDHILLS LIBERTARIAN GAZETTE Apr. 1989 (Donation from Lexington County Libertarian Party, PO Box 2297, West Columbia, SC 29171): Judging by their newsletter, this county Libertarian Party is more active than those of some states. They're into public outreach via state fairs, fighting new legislation for taxes and licensing, and of course running for office. (S-4t)

★★★★★

SASQUATCH #6-9 (SASE (?) from PO Box 126, Milford, ME 04461): A medley of bizarre stories and philosophy that tends towards a sort of all-encompassing nihilism. #6 features one really disgusting short story plus speculation on the next big set of trends. Decent writing, lots of references to other bizarre stuff, and images to turn your stomach. #7 is milder, with some ranting about the place of the struggling SubGenius in society. Yucky murder and mutilation are the highlight (?) of #9, along with some mild marginal networking. (S-4t)

★★★★★

SAWTOOTH PULSE (SASE [no trades] from P.D. Wilson, 3720 17th Ave., Columbus, GA 31904): A short burst of cartoons based on circuit diagrams, followed by a short BASIC program which has to do with resonant frequencies. Looks like an engineer's idea of humor. (D-4)

★★★★★

SCAB (50¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520): A Chapel comic that very nearly has a plot: young unsuspecting comic artist gets sucked away to hell by demons he's drawn all too realistically. Includes some gory pro-drug propaganda. (D-8)

★★★★★

SCIENCE FICTION GUIDE #13 ($1.50 from Charles Platt, 594 Broadway #1208, New York, NY 10012): A cheerfully irreverent zine about science fiction that dares to say nasty things about the big names of the field, put down the practice of people reviewing books they publish, and otherwise make a nuisance of itself. Paul Di Filippo returns to this issue to defend his thesis that most horror is simply based in being afraid of the universe, while Rudy Rucker writes a choice review of Spinrad's latest. (D-20t)

★★★★★

SCIENCE FICTION RANDOMLY #7 ($1.50 from PO Box 12705, Gainesville, FL 32604-0705): A nice science fiction zine that publishes a good mix of stuff including fine fiction. This time around "Unforgettable" by Christopher James is a neat tale of a vampire with a twist; Mary Sass's "The Smallest Brontosaurus on the Block" is pretty cute too. There's also Pizza Boy In Space comix, zine, convention and miniature golf reviews, and a couple of columns of opinion. (S-32t)

★★★★★

SCIENTIA Vol. 4 #1 ($10/6 issues from Andrew P. Smith, 1535 10th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122): "A Newsletter of Science and Other Forms of Knowledge", this one invites the reader to come along while Andrew pokes around the forefront of research. In #1 this encompasses the ethical arguments over using Nazi research data, chaotic behavior in biological systems, and the latest about drug abuse. Well-written and with references. (S-7t)

★★★★★

SCRAWLING WALL Vol. 2 #3 ($1 from 404 Piikoi Box A11, Honolulu, HI 96814): A biweekly that bills itself as "The Other Side of Hawaii", and indeed, they seem to cover a wide ground. This issue ranges from coverage of censorship around the world and local bestselling books to music in the form of charts and a Public Enemy story. Other features cover miniature models for roleplaying games and a centerfold of graffiti from the readers. (T-24t)

★★★★★

SCREWHEAD #1 ($1 (?) from 48 W. McMillan, Cincinnati, OH 45219): A new zine "for musick lovers" — and lovers of weird comics as well. The first issue has an interview with the Ass Ponys, record and comic reviews, and the start of what looks to be a disgusting comic serial about the Horsehead Family. They also publish best and worst lists and have a barfly advice column. (S-15t)

★★★★★

SEARCH & DESTROY #4-5 (50 ¢ from PO Box 1033, East Stroudsburg, PA 18301): A punk-oriented zine that spends a lot more space on the local society and scene than on the music. Interviews in #4 are not with bands but with a couple of local university students and with a dishwasher. There's also best and worst lists, reflections on good times from high school, and other stuff that sounds boring but isn't especially so. #5 is all one interview, with a pair of local skinheads, who don't seem to be as bad as the media would have us believe. (S-9r)

★★★★★

SECONDS #8 ($1.75 from PO Box 2553, Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009): A big music tabloid that's made a success out of a simple format: talk to bands that the writers like and publish what they say. Refusing to be bound by genres, this issue features such diverse acts as Gwar, KRS-One, Manowar, artist Winston Smith, Penelope Houston, Celtic Frost, Roy Orbison, and Rat at Rat R. And that's not an unusual selection for them. Good stuff. (T-38t)

★★★★★

SECULAR HUMANIST TENDENCIES #1 ($1 from Rank Amateur Press, 16389 Gladiola Ave., Rosemount, MN 55068): A collection of comics and poetry/lyrics. There's not a lot of unifying theme here. A majority of the contributions are sort of psychedelic or darkly disturbing, but there are also pretty pastoral scenes from Matt Feazell. Light but not bad. (D-16)

★★★★★

SEEDS OF LIBERATION #3 (Free from 2005 Palo Verde Ave. #230, Long Beach, CA 90815): A Christian punk zine, with a mix of music and preaching. The main feature in #3 is a longish interview with Terry Taylor. They also explain the basics of Christianity and review other Christian zines and music. (HL-16r)

★★★★★

SEEDS OF UNFOLDING Vol. V #3 ($8/4 issues from 1510 Whitehill Rd., Yorktown Heights, NY 10598): "A tool for conscious living", put out by the Cafh Foundation — who do not deign to explain themselves further. It's sort of New Age relaxed, with articles on centering and meditation and a Gudjieff teacher in the States and child development. Very pretty to look at, with lots of color and obvious care in editing, but a hard nut to crack for the outsider. (S-27t)

★★★★★

SELF PUBLISHER #1 ($1 from Ian Shires, PO Box 360922, Strongsville, OH 44136): Ian's latest attempt at a comics news and review zine. This time he's on his own, still promoting big plans for the future, and still somehow believing he can make a living off small press comics. There's a bit of news here, plus reviews (with letter grades, sure to be controversial) and letters. (HL-8)

★★★★★

SERENDIPITY #2 ($2 from Solarquest, 4295 Silver Lake Rd., Pinson, AL 35126-3307): From the slick color cover on, this fanzine is obviously trying to do a quality job of covering SF and related fields. Unfortunately, they don't quite measure up; although the mix of stories, media stuff, cartoons, poetry and humor has promise, there are still lots of rough edges. An ambitious attempt that is perhaps too ambitious. (D-40r)

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SEX AND EROTICA

One of everyone's favorite subjects, collected in one handy place, and ranging from raunchy to sublime:

•**ADULT VIDEO NEWS** Feb.-Apr. 1989 ($36/yr from 8600 West Chester Pike #300, Upper Darby, PA 19082): This is basically a porn video industry trade publication, though the reviews will be useful to fans of the genre. More interesting is their up-to-date news, legal and otherwise, and continuing evaluations of the state of the industry. R-rated and gay films don't get slighted either. Lots of fancy color ads that just skate the edges of being hardcore. Also recently released is their $8.95 1989 **BUYER'S GUIDE**, with capsule ratings on hundreds of films, manufacturers' addresses, and industry statistics. (S-74t)

•**APAEROS** #16-17 ($2 from John and Kathe Burt, 960 SW Jefferson Ave., Corvallis, OR 97333): An apa dealing with sex and relationships which is now recovering from two recent changes of address. Various folks write in with sexual exploits real, imagined or explicitly fictional. There's also discussion of everything from sexy clothes to swinging to AIDS to tickling. More poetry lately too. And on top of (or perhaps inside) everything else are those eternal cucumbers. (D-31r)

•**EROTIC WRITER'S FORUM** #1 ($2 *ONLY TO WRITERS WHO HAVE MADE 3 SALES AND CONTRIBUTED TO THE ISSUE* from Michael Drax, PO Box 20593, Sun Valley, CA 89433): A new amateur press association designed to aid writers of erotica — or porn, depending on your point of view. It's designed as a way to swap tricks of the trade, addresses for markets, and other advice. I'm pretty sure they're serious about the entrance requirements, so no need to send for this if you're not a published writer of the stuff. (S-15)

•**FARM** ($5 *CASH/stamps* from Feature, 484 Broome St., New York, NY 10013): A special sex issue of this slick little literary zine of fiction and art. A fair amount of homosexual and pansexual content runs through the stories, while the artwork ranges from a photo of a suggestive construction to an orgy involving Barbie and Skipper. There's a feeling of great competence and care about these works, as though much thought had gone into every sentence portraying confused and distressed youth. (D-40t)

•**PHALLOS** Feb. 1989 ($2 from St. Priapus Church, 583 Grove St., San Francisco, CA 94102): The newsletter of the St. Priapus Church, a Christian sect that believes in the power of sex to cure evil, as well as the goodness of phallus worship for all. They run a Gay Rescue Mission and print a variety of things ranging from personal ads to medical advice and true stories of prison rape. (D-16t)

•**SKIN DIVERS** ($2.50 *cash* & Age Statement from Krax, 63 Dixon Lane, Leeds LS12 4RR, ENGLAND): Actually a chapbook of (mostly) poetry from Lyn Lifshin & Belinda Subraman, but given the content, I figured it belonged here instead of there. Belinda is into nature imagery and the use of sex as a bonding tool between people. Lyn is more concerned with the strange turns relationships take and sex as a form of power. Both get steamy from time to time, though in a rather elliptic way. I enjoy their work. (A5-36t)

•**UKIYO X** #1 ($1 (?) from Michael Manning, PO Box 832, Brookline, MA 02147-0832): A decidedly different erotic minicomic featuring transsexuals, transvestites, bondage and domination as well as sloshy and steamy sex. No words here, but the pictures are more than sufficient to tell some bizarre stories. A fantasy world for the uninhibited. (M-16)

•**YELLOW SILK** #28 ($5 from verygraphics, PO Box 6374, Albany, CA 94706): Still here, still beautiful, still erotic, still stunning — the best "Journal of Erotic Arts" around. #28 is a very soft, natural issue, with tinted photos from Sandra Russell Clark, outdoorsy poetry, and stories that come at Eros in a shy manner from unexpected directions. Not graphic sex, but the slow and quiet uncovering of deep desires, fantasies, and feelings. (S-50t)

★★★★★

THE SF CON REGISTER Spring 1989 ($2 from Erwin S. Strauss, PO Box 3343, Fairfax, VA 22038): The oldest and still the most exhaustive listing of science fiction conventions there is. No frills here, just heavily indexed listings of regular cons, new entries, and bids for major cons, without articles or interviews. The Spring issue scoops the field by reporting on the five conventions to be held in the USSR this year. (S-18r)

★★★★★

THE SHADOW #1 (Cash donation from PO Box 20298, New York, NY 10009): A radical community paper from the Lower East Side of New York City. Their coverage is of things like the whitewash "investigation" of the Tompkins Square Riot, the down side of the Guardian Angels, and political prisoner Marilyn Buck. They also provide a list of places to go for food and help in the area. (T-16)

★★★★★

SHADOWPLAY #17 (A$4.50 from PO Box 343, Petersham 2049, AUSTRALIA): A pagan zine that's getting more impressive all the time. #17 reports on consensus decisions from the Australian Spring Festival (they seem to have accomplished quite a lot), reviews a batch of books, and gives two views from participants in a "Wiccaning" of an 8-year-old boy. Nice page borders, a relaxed editorial presence, and a sense of both fun and excitement help illuminate this zine. (D-60t)

★★★★★

THE SHADOW WARRIOR #1 (C$3 from Gateway Comics, Box 2273, Stn. R, Kelowna, BC, V1X 4K6, CANADA): A new comic in the sword-and-sorcery vein. This one starts to set the stage for what looks to be a rather bloody confrontation between Good (in the form of "the Balance") and Evil (a batch of nasty warriors led by someone who's sold out to dark forces). Lush detail in the artwork helps set the mood of the struggle. (S-24)

★★★★★

SHAREWARE MAGAZINE Vol. III #5-Vol. IV #1 ($20/yr from 1030-D East Duane Ave., Sunnyvale, CA 94086): A magazine for users of IBM-compatible computers who are looking for new software at reasonable prices. Put out by PC-SIG, the leading distributor of shareware (software you can try before buying), it reviews the latest packages and lets you know what's out there to be had. Worth a look for computer owners. (S-46t)

★★★★★

SHATTERED WIG REVIEW #3 ($3 from 523 E. 38th St., Baltimore, MD 21218): A literary zine from the curious side of the underground. They feature works by folks like Rupert Wondolewski, Blaster Al Ackerman, Willie Smith, and John Bennett — folks who see the world in a decidedly twisted way but have enough writing talent to inflict their visions on the rest of us. Crazy poems and maddening stories rub metaphorical elbows with collages and original artwork here. (HL-70)

★★★★★

SHORT FUSE #37-38 ($1 from Holden, PO Box 90436, Santa Barbara, CA 93190): A freeform collection of art and writing. #38 contains a baloon, a piece of work by compiler Holden to be tied to it, and instructions for releasing it (but you have to supply the helium). It also has poetry from Oberc and Kittell, drawings by Walt Phillips and Seb, xerox monsters, psychotic notebook pages, and a variety of other confusing and enlightening stuff. (S-24)

★★★★★

SHOTS #9-13 ($2 from 304 S. 4th St., Danville, KY 40422): This is the first photography magazine I've seen that seems to be done on our sort of scale with our sort of exuberance. Editor Dan Price puts together work from a lot of folks, sometimes around a theme, sometimes not. #9 has a lot of affecting photos from Euguen Richards. #12 explores the potential of the $3 plastic Diana camera, which is actually sort of astounding. #13 includes a column form Bill Jay blasting the radical feminist domination of the Society for Photographic Education. Ultra-friendly editorials are an added treat. (T-24)

★★★★★

SHOW ME FREEDOM Vol. 3 #5 ($1 (?) from Missouri LP, PO Box 3231, St. Louis, MO 63130): A Libertarian Party zine that seems pretty upbeat. #5 is split between election results (it was a good year for the Libertarians in Missouri) and some thoughts about maintaining a radical alternative posture in the future. (S-8t)

★★★★★

SICK WORLD #2-3 (75¢ from Chris Caggiano, 1737 Grove St. #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385): A violent little comic featuring various apocalyptic anti-superheroes. The plotting seems to owe things to both mainstream action comics and D&D. Unfortunately, the execution ranges from poor to fair, and the doubled lettering gets annoying in short order. For the hardcore independent comics fan only. (D-32)

★★★★★

SIGN OF THE TIME$S Vol. 4 #1 ($3.50 from Studio 403, PO Box 70672, Seattle, WA 98107-0672): One of my favorite litmags, full of bizarre and novel stories. F. J. Matozzo's "The Golden Fleece" is an erotic fairytale; Steven Sherrill's "In All His Bovine Glory" is an icky story of death with a new twist; and Willie Smith's "Essay on the Vacuum" is the sort of perverted writing we've grown to expect from him. 8 other stories, plus nifty graphics and a professional looking layout make this one a definite winner. (S-32t)

★★★★★

SIGNS OF THE FUTURE #1 (15¢ & a stamp from Ed Huyck, 16389 Gladiola Ave., Rosemount, MN 55068): A cute idea for a minicomic: boillboards and other signs we may live to see. My favorite of the batch is "Help Wanted: Clones Need Not Apply", although "Warning Politicians Ahead" is another good idea. The artwork is pretty primitive but it hardly matters with this subject. (M-8)

★★★★★

SILENCE SEPARATES US FROM OURSELVES ($1 *CASH* from Denise Dee, 29A Guy Pl., San Francisco, CA 94105): More intensely personal writing from Denise, this time prompted by (though not necessarily centered on) a trip to Ireland. Many of the revelations in this booklet were prompted by a silence that allowed introspection when relationships needed to be reforged after a long time. Excruciatingly honest and wonderful as usual. (HL-18t)

★★★★★

SILT BREEZE #3-4 ($1 from PO Box 53297, Philadelphia, PA 19105): A music zine that has a fascination with sexuality, as evidenced by using porno pics as backdrops for their written work and reviews which depend heavily on metaphors from the locker room. Not exceptionally interesting, more exhibitionistic than informative. (D-16r)

★★★★★

SIR REALIST Vol. 1 #2 ($2 from PO Box 862, Athens, OH 45701): "A Review of News, Art and Fiction From the Underground Press", this one digests contents from half a dozen or more places into one easy package. Topics include opposition politics, music reviews, a rant from the elusive Malok, and short fiction. They also throw in reviews of a pile of other zines. Small but growing. (D-41r)

★★★★★

SIVULLINEN #8 (Trade or IRCs from Jouni Waarakangas, Poste Restante, 00980 Helsinki 98, FINLAND): A political punk zine featuring a mix of lyrics/poetry and artwork/posters. The folks contributing take a general stance of opposition to the system, attacking war, vivisection, corporate greed, and other evils as the spirit moves them. All in English and looking to make more contacts around the world. (A5-28)

★★★★★

SKEET'S FAN FORUM AND REVIEW #4 ($3.50/3 issues from Steve Keeter, 513 N. Summerlin Ave., Orlando, FL 32803): This is the last issue of this comics zine that will include the "review" part — Steve wants to leave more room for the forum, which is the heart of it. A dozen or so folks who are extremely active in small press comics contribute here, talking about mainstream, indie and self-published comics, tributes vs. ripoff, heavy metal music, the sound a sheep makes, and sundry other subjects. Interesting and so far free of namecalling for the most part. (D-30r)

★★★★★

THE SKELETON QUARTERLY #10 (Donation from Raining House, PO Box 1452, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): A fine little arty publication that slides through music and poetry and collage, touching down briefly here or there before flitting off again. Serious bits about the invention of xerography or the problems of food irradiation are intertwined with cryptic graphics and desert tales. A nice size and look, too, about a quarter sheet of legal paper with heavy stock and a painted back cover. (D-40t)

★★★★★

THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER Vol. 13 #3 ($6 from PO Box 229, Buffalo, NY 14215-9980): The debunking periodical of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, who make it their business to go about throwing cold water on ideas like levitation and crystal energy. Though they're not above cheap shots or ignoring their own unquestioned assumptions, they are generally solid. This issue looks at things from Bigfoot to MJ-12 to the Shroud of Turin, finding in all cases that there is no reason to question the dominant paradigms. (D-112t)

★★★★★

SKIN & BONES #5 ($1 from PO Box 49245, Austin, TX 78765): Nice little zine with heavy emphasis on the Austin live music scene, plus reports from scattered other places. Interview this time with Puffy Brutha Man, lots of photos, a small bunch of reviews. They've recently bought a press and want to help other local zines out with printing. (D-40r)

★★★★★

SKYVIEWS Vol. 3 #4/5 ($5 from PO Box 2473, Seattle, WA 98111): A double issue of this "Magazine of Graphic & Written Arts". They print a good deal of poetry, but they also print critical essays (such as Bob Grumman's on language poetry in this issue) and letters, plus less linear works, short stories, interviews and even a channelling (of a rather smartass spirit). There's a bold feeling of experimentation and excitement here, and a wonderful attention to the look and feel of the magazine. Occasionally very hard to penetrate but never dull. (HL-92t)

★★★★★

SLAM BANG #25 ($2 from 157 Northwood Rd., Frankfort, KY 40601-1477): A nice collection of rowdy comics. Especially fun are Can's tale of Joe D. the Pig, private detective, and the speculative sexual excesses of Donna Barr, who draws from a hermaphroditic world. Other contributors include Brad Foster, Bolt Upright, and Robin Ator, as well as editor Alan Freeman. (D-28)

★★★★★

SLEW #3 ($1 from 15 Glen Mawr Dr., Trenton, NJ 08618): Short music interviews plus photos of bands and folks on skateboards. #3 includes chats with McRad, Aware!, Turning Point, Unit Pride, Pagan Babies, and others. Doesn't really stand out from the pack, but gets a few words across from a bunch of younng bands. (D-20r)

★★★★★

SMALL PRESS REVIEW #191-194 ($18/yr from Dustbooks, PO Box 100, Paradise, CA 95969): The place to go for information about what we might call the "legitimate" small press: mainly poetry and litzines, but also independent book publishers of all types. In addition to reviews and criticism, they feature Merritt Clifton's advice column for the small publisher and updates to the INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY OF LITTLE MAGAZINES AND SMALL PRESSES. In #194 Clifton pays tribute to some recently deceased litmags including SNOWY EGRET. (S-16t)

★★★★★

SOCIETE Vol. 2 #2 ($6 from Technicians of the Sacred, 1317 N. San Fernando Blvd. #310, Burbank, CA 91504): A magickal zine for those interested in Voudon, Santeria, Macumba, and other neo-African and African systems of religion. This issue has a history of the O.T.O.A., a meditation manual by Michael Bertiaux, and some personal notes on Macumba, among other things. As far as I know it's the only zine of its kind. (S-44t)

★★★★★

SOMA/ADDICTION ($2 from Thomas, Georgia Tech PO Box 3526, Atlanta, GA 30332): A very odd collection of music, art, and, well, other things — like the page of Bertrand Russell quotes in this issue. It all opens with a heavy-duty screened & painted cover (watch out for that ink — it takes a while to dry), and then segues into letters, opinion, strange stories, music reviews, and an interview with Dead Elvis. Also more beer reviews than any zine in recent memory. (S-22t)

★★★★★

SOMEPLACE LIKE EARTH #1-2 (75¢ from Chris Caggiano, 1737 Grove St. #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385): A zine of clippings and opinions, from Chris and whoever else cares to contribute. These first two issues get into things like the NYC poster police, the effects of nuclear war, and the plans of FEMA. There's also ecological thoughts, reprinted comics, and other stuff. (D-24)

★★★★★

SONIC LIFE Sept. 1988 (£11/yr from 429 Harrow Road, London W10 4RE, ENGLAND): From the nice people at Blast First Records, this is full of strange stuff about the music on their label. The September issue includes snippets of Lydia Lunch, Savage Pencil, Big Black and Band of Susans, among others. There's also a Robert Poss flexi which I actually thought was pretty horrible but no doubt his dark sounds appeal to some of you and you can get a copy of that alone for £1.50. (A4-16)

★★★★★

THE SORCEROR'S SCROLLS #33 ($1.50 from Tori Bergquist, Cliff Hanger Games, PO Box 117, San Simon, AZ 85632): A pretty wide-ranging journal of role-playing games (though not superhero systems — Tori's spinning off a second zine for that). Contents include short fiction, maps and histories from various campaigns, rules and scenarios, and well-written reviews. Almost makes me want to get involved in the hobby again. (D-40r)

★★★★★

SORTE ROSE #10 ($1 from Jakob & Christel, Poul Paghsgade 23, 3th, 9000 Aalborg, DENMARK): Scandinavian music coverage, plus lots and lots off photos of touring bands — printed large and clear enough to see, which is somewhat of a novelty. This issue includes Life But How To Live It, President Fetch, The Flaming Lips, Rhythm Pigs, SNFU and more. (A4-24)

★★★★★

SOS NEWSLETTER Vol. 1 #4 ($12/4 issues from CODESH, PO Box 5, Buffalo, NY 14215-0005): The newsletter of Secular Organizations for Sobriety, also known as Save Our Selves — an alternative to the usual AA 12-step plan for recovering alcoholics and other substance abusers. If the heavy atmosphere of helplessness and religion at AA meetings is keeping you from kicking a habit, you might get in touch with this group. (S-8t)

★★★★★

SOUND SEEN #7-8 (2 stamps from Amy Flammang and Melanie Amin, URH 15 Allen, 1005 W. Gregory, Urbana, IL 61801): A pleasant little music zine with a sort of college focus — though more a matter of feel than a fascination with college radio or anything. #7 has a Primitives interview and the story of the squirrel int he furnace. #8 has the Dead Milkmen, Wonkavision and an Elvis clone. Also show and album reviews and other bits and pieces. (D-20t)

★★★★★

SOURCES #10-12 ($1.50 from PO Box 1076, Columbia, MD 21044): New Age networking run amok, though careful picking reveals some useful gems among the rest. #10 includes articles on Polarity Therapy, Wholistic Face Reading, and the illusion of time as well as lots of ads and an extensive calendar and networking section. #12 includes an interview with some firewalkers, a plug for Eckankar and Sri Chinmoy on the Global Peace Run '89. Growing fast. (S-48t)

★★★★★

SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER Vol. XVII #9-10 ($6/yr from Rte. 10, Box 52A, Florence, SC 29501): A medley of news clippings and cartoons combined with occasional original commentary to present a Libertarian view of the world — showing just how absurd the government is, and how well people cna do with self-help. Fun and amusing, as well as sometimes thought-provoking. (S-16)

★★★★★

THE SOUTHERN WILLAMETTE ALLIANCE Vol. 9 #1-2 ($10/yr from 454 Willamette St., Eugene, OR 97214): A "Progressive News Journal for the Cascadia Bioregion", this one contains information on a medley of issues: Food irradiation, old growth forests, homelessness, war toys, toxic wastes, local economic alternatives, and much more. Lots of exciting ideas in every issue, with balanced and professional coverage. (T-16t)

★★★★★

SPEW #2 ($1 from War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette St., New York, NY 10012): Back after a few years, this is a youth outreach project of the WRL — folks who have been struggling against war for decades now. This is full of introductory articles on social justice issues like racism, liberation movements, military service, sexism, and ecology. Good solid information, with many more resources to back it up. (S-24t)

★★★★★

SPILLED GUTS #1 (75¢ & a stamp from Josh Leipzig, 38 Abernathy Dr., Trenton, NJ 08618): Your basic punk music zine: interviews (War Zone, Stand-up, Release), zine and record reviews, and show reportage. There's also a page of photos from a Gwar show (unfortunately they didn't come out real well) and a sort of gory cover. (S-13)

★★★★★

SPIRITUAL MOTHERING JOURNAL Vol. 8 #2 ($10/yr from PO Box 213, Lyle, WA 98635): A zine on raising children which seems strongly influenced by the Baha'i faith. There is much here on learning from your kids, on bringiing up peaceful people, and on the advancement of spirituality through the parent-child relationship. Very committed sounding and a ray of hope. (HL-30t)

★★★★★

THE SPIRITUAL REVOLUTIONARY Vol. 1 #1-5 ($3 from S/R Press, PO Box 60327, Palo Alto, CA 94306-0327): Kyle continues to provoke a lot of thoughts with this letterzine oriented around New Age and occult matters as provoked by his book **WAR IN HEAVEN** [see FF28]. People are writing about subjects from sex magic to psychic attack to "the Breakthrough", with both written & channelled responses from Kyle. #2 is made up mostly of reactions from reviewers of the book. #4 makes some predictions about Islamic fundamentalist terrorism in this country, discusses the probable fall of civilization, and touches briefly on Shaver. Wide-ranging and wild correspondents. For $1 you can get a special introductory issue. (S-20)

★★★★★

SPIRITUAL WOMEN'S TIMES Vol. 2 #2 ($7.50/4 issues from PO Box 51186, Seattle, WA 98115-1186): "Women Learning From Women" is the subtitle to this one, with a strong focus on emotional and spiritual support. This issue leads off with an interview with Z Budapest, and goes on to talk about underwater birthing, the search for God, and the nature of a healthy androgyny. (T-16t)

★★★★★

SPLATTER #3 ($1 (?) from 4122 Prospect St., Los Angeles, CA 90027): A collection of comics, lyrics and short prose pieces designed to make you shudder. Ron Reagan, death, money-grubbing nuns and strange sex are among the attractions here. The Charles Manson bodybuilding ad is especially morbidly funny. (D-40)

★★★★★

THE SPLATTER EFFECT Vol. 2 #9 ($15/12 issues from PO Box 2, Bound Brook, NJ 08805): A music tabloid with an almost frightening amount of information: 6 pages of band news, 3 pages of club dates and descriptions of 220 new bands in this issue. What fascinated me, though, was the "first person record reviews" pages: artists talking about their own recordings. (T-24t)

★★★★★

SPOREPRINT #10 (Donation from The Fane, PO Box 1295, Stn. E, Vancouver, BC V8W 2W3): Occasional newsletter of the Fane of the Psilocybe Mushroom Asc., a group which follows somewhat in the tradition of the Neo-American Church to promote drugs as a spiritual experience. They reprint stories old and new on various hallucinogens, and urge legalization and amnesty for users. (S-12t)

★★★★★

SPUN #22-26 (75¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520): Doug's reviewzine, which takes a look at everything from new records and books to the watercolors of Adolf Hitler and the Ted Bundy cult. Not too much verbiage here, as he's an artist himself and leaves lots of room for graphics. #25 includes reviews of President Bush and comic character Jean Grey. (S-12)

★★★★★

SPEW 2:
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Guaranteed to foment revolution or at least boggle your mind.

SPEW
2
FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St. #F5
New York, NY 10012

THE SPY LYRIC Vol. 2 #2 ($15/yr from PO Box 6306, Nashua, NH 03061-6306): A music tabloid that bears a resemblance to the typical supermarket tabloid; sort of a fun takeoff. This issue features news on performers as diverse as Lisa Suckdog, Eric Clapton, GG Allin and Xanna Don't, plus lots of local news and a few reviews. (T-16t)

★★★★★

SRI KRISHNA #1 ($3.50 from CIVA, PO Box 1936, Decatur, GA 30031): Those initials stan for Cultural Institute for the Vedic Arts, associated with what is commonly called the Hare Krishnas in this country. This is first of a projected series telling the story of Lord Krishna in an opulent comic book form. It's a good idea, since the Hindu mythology has an ample amount of intrigue, violence, superpowers and so on to make a good comic. Printed on slick paper and followed by a question and answer column, this is an impressive project to bring a new bunch of folks to a state of grace. (S-32)

★★★★★

STARLIGHT #13 ($10/4 issues from Sirius, PO Box 452, 00101 Helsinki, FINLAND): A pagan journal which is trying to reconstruct an authentic Nordic way of worship, relying on archaeological evidence from Finland and environs. They print a lot of short bits, do some networking, and otherwise appear to be having fun. A decidely different view of the idea of paganism. (A5-32)

★★★★★

STAR ROUTE JOURNAL Vol. 7 #1-3 (41 from PO Box 1451, Redway, CA 95560-1451): An outpost of hippie culture that has continued to evolve with the times even while retaining links with the past. #1 has more correspondence from various counterculture types in the USSR and more poetry than usual. A nice continuing feature is the interviewing of original hippies, who remember the sixties without romanticizing them. #3 reminisces on a trip to Baja California in the good old days. (T-12t)

★★★★★

STAR*TECH Vol. 2 #11-Vol. 3 #1 ($2.50 from PO Box 26599, Tempe, AZ 85285-6599): An astrology magazine that is not naively gullible (whether they may be sophisticatedly gullible is another question, which applies to any of us). The've been considering just what works and what doesn't in the field, using competent statistical analysis rather than anecdote as their main tool. They're also good at keeping track of computerized astrology. (S-20t)

★★★★★

STEEL JUSTICE #1 (50¢ from PO Box 486, Richwood, WV 26261): This is an "origin" minicomic, set in an area fallen under anarchy where the new government is killing the cops (how's that again?). Unfortunately the art and lettering are pretty poor, and there's no plot to salvage things as yet. (M-8)

★★★★★

STILL ANGRY? ($5 from 100 Russett Ave., Toronto, ONT M6H 3M3, CANADA): A compilation magazine with accompanying tape to benefit the Toronto Animal Liberation Front Support Group. They've collected over a dozen socially-conscious and radical groups and gotten them to contribute music and answer questions. Featured groups include Chumbawamba, Social Suicide. Man's Hate, and AOA. (HL-44r & tape)

★★★★★

STORM WARNING #11 (50¢ from Vietnam Veterans Against the War Anti-Imperialist, 4710 University Way NE #1612, Seattle, WA 98105): Hardcore anti-war stuff from folks who were in Vietname and publicly celebrate our loss there. Now they're busy demonstrating against Bush, pointing out the connections between the military and sexism, and encouraging soldiers to resist their commanding officers. Strident but with a message. (D-19t)

★★★★★

STRANGE DAYS #12 (Free from X. Sharks DeSpot, 2225 Montego Dr., Lansing, MI 48912): A zine of conspiracies and silliness. In #12 X proposes a novel plan for urban redevelopment and suggests to the army that they breed ferrets to drink brake fluid for use as saboteurs. (S-3)

★★★★★

STRANGE MAGAZINE #3 ($4.95 from PO Box 2246, Rockville, MD 20852): An ambitious and well-written fortean magazine. This issue contains a sensible article on one of the famous crystal skulls, looks at sea serpents and bigfoots, Doug Chapman on the work of Wilhelm Reich, encounters with lizardmen, and much more. It's all relatively well documented and walks a nice line between belief and skepticism. The graphic design is also very well done, making this a pleasure to read. (S-64t)

★★★★★

STRANGER FANZINE #7 ($1.50 from 15 Van Saun Dr., Trenton, NJ 08628): Heart of this music zine is a lot of short interviews: Gorilla Biscuits, Screaching Weasel, Articulate Violence, Plastic Toys and half a dozen more. Editor Eric Szantai also packs in a lot of reviews of shows, zines and records, plus scattered thoughts on things like the state of music or conformity. Bits of art and clipped quotes liven up the layout. Except for the scene report from Chile it's sort of centered on the Northeast. (S-32t)

★★★★★

A STRAYNGE CATALOGUE (45¢ stamps from Bob Grumman, PO Box 3621, Port Charlotte, FL 33949-3621): The catalog of products from Bob's Runaway Spoon Press, which carries a lot of wordplay, collage, visual-verbal fusions, and other curiousities, similar to those reviewed in Bob's FF column. Beyond that, though, this catalog actually has a plot, featuring a disapproving book inspector who finally gets hers in a gory staple attack. (M-34)

★★★★★

STREETRACING Vol. 1 #8-9 ($12/12 issues from SISA, PO Box 020261, Staten Island, NY 10302-0003): The Staten island Streetracing Association is into a lot of strange things: vampirology, S&M, swinging and ghost-chasing being their chief interests. The zine is a mix of short reviews, ads, artwork and clippings from what seem to be supermart tabloids. They also host live gatherings on subjects like oral sex, and seem tied in to a variety of kinky activities. (S-12)

★★★★★

STRESSED OUT #5 ($1 (?) from 151 Arlington Ave., Daytona Beach, FL 32014): A zine of punk and poetry and comics and other stuff, all mashed together and coming out pretty well mixed. Editor Pauline Poisonous does a good job of skipping from the lengthy Agent Orange interview to the page on the anarchist gathering to an article on the dangers of talking to cops. Definitely youth culture, not shallow, a good read, and a fine chaotic layout. (HL-24r)

★★★★★

STROKER #42 ($3.50 from 129 - 2nd Ave. #3, New York, NY 10003): Poetry, prose and artwork fill this idiosyncratic little literary zine which was the only place Henry Miller wrote for in his last years. Now Tommy Trantino, prison artist, poet and writer is their main man, and there's lots of his work here, along with poems from R.C. Mcelderry and Daniel Dellinger, more reminiscences of France from editor Irv Stettner, and more. Not as flashy as some of today's young zines but solid and self-assured. (D-52)

★★★★★

STUFF #15 ($1.50 from jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): An anthology minicomic with work from a whole bunch of folks. Besides editor Brad Foster, those represented include Wayne Honath, T.K.Atherton, T.S. Child (with a reprint from the classic MONTHLY...BULLETIN), Steve Willis and Taral Wayne. Good stuff, so to speak. (M-20)

★★★★★

SUBLIME SLIME Vol. 9 #1 ($1 (?) from 21925 Meridian Ave. S, Bothell, WA 98021): A small collection of humor based (mostly) on current political news. This issue pokes fun at the troubles of the Bush administration in getting started, and recommends deep-frying your bananas to deactivate any pesticides that may be clinging to their skins. (S-3)

★★★★★

THE SUBTLE JOURNAL OF RAW COINAGE #17-18 (Respectively 10¢ & 3¢ plus a stamp from dbqp, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): Two more investigations into neologisms from Ge(of) Huth, one of the foremost word-hunters alive today. #17 is the "Shordurpersavs" issue, with three coined names of possible gods. #18 is a rare foray into the world of ditto featuring catchphrases which make no more sense than "23 skidoo". (MM-3 & D-4)

★★★★★

SUBURBAN LIFE #1 ($1 *cash* & 1 stamp from Pete Reilly, 20 Worths Mills Ln., Princeton, NJ 08540):A new skatezine by the guy who does **ALIVE AND DIRECT**. Pretty much all photos, mostly a bit dark, but still better than some of the genre. (D-16)

★★★★★

SUCCESSFUL MAGAZINE PUBLISHING Mar./Apr. 1989 ($5 from Randall Publishing Company, PO Box 2029, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403): I don't know why these folks sent me a copy; their definition of "successful" seems to start at about 50,000 circulation, with slick covers and big staffs. Still, if your zine is after a printer or a mailing list manager or someone to do color separations, you may find them in the ads here. Articles are on things like typeface choice and designing renewal mailings. (S-56t)

★★★★★

SUDS 'N' STUFF Vol. 6 #1/2 ($10/yr from PO Box 6402, Oceanside, CA 92056): The newsletter of Beer Drinkers International, a. group of folks interested in drinking & enjoying beer. #1/2 is a double issue, livened by a publicity insert from the Coors company with a history of the bottles they've used over the years. There are also beer and restaurant reviews, beer recipes, and general news for collectors and brewers. (S-8t)

★★★★★

A SUITABLE JOB FOR A WOMAN #8 ($1.50 from Sharon Rose, 203 Talley Road, Chattanooga, TN 37411): A letterzine — that is, made up of letters from readers — dedicated to women in mysteries and women mystery authors, as well as associated topics like television series that fit this genre. Most of the folks writing review good books they've read lately; there is also some discussion of what's good and bad about the field. (S-12)

★★★★★

THE SURVIVOR Vol. 7 #4 ($10/12 issues from PO Box 327, Harrison, AR 72601): A survivalist newspaper by Kurt Saxon, author of **THE POOR MAN'S JAMES BOND**. He reprints a variety of classic home shop and lab tips, plus things like the basics on the Roman legions in #4. He also answers lots of questions from his subscribers, most of which seem to be young kids who want to make bombs. A bit scary. (T-16t)

★★★★★

SWEET & SWISHY Vol. 3 #5 ($2 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982): A zine filled with cute and adorable children, in photographs and print — their "letters to God" in #5, for example. This is not original stufff but collected from other sources, and focuses on celebrity and hometown kids about equally. (S-13)

★★★★★

THE SWEET RIDE #12 ($1 and a stamp from Peter Mantis, 123 Stonewall #4, Memphis, TN 38104): The last issue of this zine of music and cinema and stuff edited by Peter goes out on a high note, with some contributions from founder Randy Russell. There's also reviews of arty movies and noisy tapes, hand-colored pages, collages and general madness. Very personable. (D-28r)

★★★★★

SWELLSVILLE #8 ($2 from PO Box 85334, Seattle, WA 98145): A grand dollop of zine that doesn't stick to the new music party line. Features on hip-hop, rap, and house music appear along with the more usual college fare and Richie Unterberger's musings on 60's rarities. Other writers include Frank Kogan, Chuck Eddy, Steve Kiviat, Fred Mills and editor Jack Thompson — a good crew of critical thinkers who can do more than just record reviews. Mudhoney and The Ladies of Love are among the featured performers. Quite a brick, and refreshingly different. (S-111t)

★★★★★

TAKE STAGE! Vol. 1 #2 (On Request from PO Box 7194, Westchester, IL 60154): A newsletter for actors who want to learn more about their craft. Features in #2 include an interview with a stage manager, a discussion of acting by Ernest Borgnine, and features on a couple of training programs. (S-20t)

★★★★★

TALES FROM ROSLYN #2 ($1 from Edward Zolna Inc., PO Box 1278, Roslyn, PA 19001): A continuing story, in comic strip form, of love between a couple of adolescents — one from a spaceship run by his besotted father, and one who will grow up to be rather a giantess if she follows the family traditions. The plot is still wandering along, with the characterization leading the way. Fun stuff. (M-24)

★★★★★

TAPESTRY Winter/Spring 1989 (Donation from PO Box 261, Lihue, HI 96766): Newsletter of Performing and Fine Artists for World Peace. They apparently devote some of their time and efforts to helping create a world at peace, and hold various festivals and showings to spread their ideas. They also act as a networking point to contact a bunch of other worthwhile organizations. (S-8t)

★★★★★

TAX WATCH Vol. 1 #3 (Donation from SCAT, PO Box 50799, Columbia, SC 29250): From the South Carolina Association of Taxpayers, a group which wants a sensible (i.e., minimal) amount of taxation from the state. Lots of opinions and libertarian rhetoric here, along with facts on various state tax plans real and proposed. (HL-8r)

★★★★★

TEMPLE OF SODOM Vol. 1 #1 ($1 from Martin Billheimer, 2778 Milwaukee, Chicago, IL 60647): A zine of bad taste. Contents include a review of a few Manson books, cannibal sodomy tales, a defense of flashers, and fervent wishes for the whole system to collapse. Illustrated with cheesy collages, this one has no redeeming value at all. (S-14)

★★★★★

THE TEN CONDIMENTS #2 ($1 from PO Box 85193, Seattle, WA 98145-1193): This zine is music-centered but they refuse to let that stuff them into a pigeonhole. They run a few record reviews, but the bulk of their content splits between odd stream-of-consciousness dreamstories and reports from the Seattle and Eugene live music scenes. Very energetic, with collage backings and out-of-page experiences lurking to trap the unwary. (S-46)

★★★★★

TERMINAL REPORT #2 ($2 from Box Dog Press, PO Box 9609, Seattle, WA 98109): A zine with a theme, and this time the theme is "Drug-Related Experiences". Most of this is writing from just plain folks, who've dealt with a variety of things: acid, pot, speed, heroin, gin, XTC, whiskey, cocaine...the list is pretty extensive. A mix of scare stories, good advice, and paeans to the wonders of drugs. Much more satisfying than simplistic propaganda one way or the other. (S-45)

★★★★★

THE TERMITE #24-26 ($1 from 2519 McMullen-Booth Rd. #510-117, Clearwater, FL 34621): A music zine that covers a lot of ground and crams it all in by using print almost as small as this. In #24 they talk to Mojo Nixon, Monks of Doom, and Young Fresh Fellows. They also publish recipes from some rock legends (including Eugene Chadbourne's potato salad) and discuss local "weasels". Record reviews from REM to Wankers. Run Westy Run and Texas Instruments are among the folks in #26. (S-12t)

★★★★★

TERRAPIN SYNDICATE #6 (One IRC from Lot Duran No. 3, Pouydesseaux, 40120 Roquefort, FRANCE): An international mail-art contact sheet. They announce various shows and exchanges and recommend a few other publications in the field. It's all done in an atttractive photocopy format that shows off the medium to good advantage. (A4-2)

★★★★★

THE TERRITORIAL HERALD Vol. IX #2 ($1 from Free Territory of Ely-Chatelaine, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): The newsletter of Marc Ely-Chaitlin's confederation of household monarchies. In this issue he announces new election rules as well as initiatives dealing with the abolition of Federal taxes and aid to the homeless. He also attacks folks who've taken his theories of government less than seriously, including the Libertarian Party, the Universal Life Church, Ron Tobin, and this writer. I frankly have had enough of this posturing; the whole idea of dubbing ourselves as Kings and Dukes to escape the government is simply silly. (HL-12r)

★★★★★

TEXAS MUSIC CONTACT LIST #1 (SASE from Underground Publications, PO Box 14139, Arlington, TX 76094-1139): Apparently inspired by the similar music contact list from Florida, this has addresses and phone numbers for a pile of musicians, clubs, producers, promoters and more involved in the Texas scene. Looks like a useful resource. (L-1r)

★★★★★

THE TEXAS OASIS Mar. 1989 ($1 (?) from Earth First, PO Box 7292, University Stn., Austin, TX 78713): A local/regional Earth First newsletter from a relatively active group. Lots of legal news here as they are up to their neck in various rezoning and endangered species arguments. Road and tract housing development appear to be the major problems they face, along with the usual clearcutting. (S-9t)

★★★★★

TEXTURE #3 ($9/yr from The Art Mill, 6341 Arapahoe, Boulder, CO 80303): A very arty sort of zine that covers local "Art Fiction Photos Music & More". They seem to be trying to draw together some sort of avant-garde scene, from a show by The Burritos to photos from Haiti to some reprinted criticism of art in general. (T-12t)

★★★★★

THANG! #8 ($1.50 from Mike Robbins, 1713 Commonwealth Ave. #1, Boston, MA 02135): Back after a long absence occasioned by Mike's European trip and subsequent move to Boston, this one is still heavy on confusing interviews and no-nonsense reviews. Redd Kross, Dinosaur Jr. and Social Distortion make the talk pages this time around, while vinyl from most of the major independents gets dissected with a critical eye. Refreshing. (S-16r)

★★★★★

THINK #1 ($1 from PO Box 2354, Tulsa, OK 74101): A medley of stuff that hasn't quite gelled yet. There are indeed some thought pieces (like the notes on world hunger), but there's also poetry, graffiti, artwork and some musical content. A couple pages of record reviews fill out the package. (D-20)

★★★★★

THINK FOR YOURSELF #10-11 ($1 from P. Rutherford, 8 Lindsay Rd (2F4), Leith, Edinburgh, UK): A punk zine which concentrates on the culture rather than the music. The editor seems to be a bit burned out and cynical, which makes him critical, but he's by no means given up. Mixed in with short essays are strange bits of fiction. Gropings towards a better world. (M-24r)

★★★★★

THINKPEACE Vol. IV #5 ($12/yr from San Francisco Study Group for Peace & Disarmament, 2735 Franklin St., San Francisco, CA 94123): A brainstorming newsletter for the peace movement. While recognizing that this is a circle without a center, they also recognize that present strategies in the movement are simply inadequate, and try to address this need. I rather like Tom Atlee's ideas about coming to a workable synthesis instead of having silly little turf wars in this issue. (S-6t)

★★★★★

THIS IS WAR ($1 from Sheridan, 3146 W. 82nd St. Up, Cleveland, OH 44111): A collection in minicomic form of this strip which originally ran in FAN'TOONS. Although the plot is not crystal clear, it concerns a war between the aliens and the earthlings, which we are losing. Lots of pointless death, anti-heroism, shell shock and other unattractive mental states, along with a dark and depressing artistic style. (M-40)

★★★★★

THIS MONTH IN MAINE LITERATURE Vol. IV #1-3 ($25/yr from Maine Writers and Publishers Alliance, 19D Mason St., Brunswick, ME 04011): A tabloid aimed at the publishing crowd in Maine. #1 includes a cautionary tale from someone who made a few mistakes getting into self-publishing. #2 has concise tax info for writers and a profile of publisher Thea Wainwright. #3 prints some cautionary words on a recent variant of the old vanity-press game. And every issue features reviews of books from the state as well as a way to get discounts on them.(T-12t)

★★★★★

THIS ZINE SUCKS #15 ($1 from Bob Conrad, PO Box 7952, West Trenton, NJ 08628): The title is a worse misnomer than ever as this zine is jam-packed with music (including more record reviews than some of the big-name punkzines) and fun. This issue includes interviews with Devo and Agnostic Front, among others. There's also poetry and (to celebrate their 3rd anniversary) an index of all the bands they've interviewed — a neat idea. (S-28r)

★★★★★

THOSE INCREDIBLE NEWTS #2 (35¢ & a stamp from Concrete Caverns Graphix, 70A Greenwich Ave. #186, New York, NY 10011): A cute little comic about a pair of newts who go back in time (through sheer mental power) and try to witness the big bang in action. Physics and amphibians — a winning combination. In the back of the zine is the prototype issue of MEAN STREETS, a journal of serious comics criticism. (M-12)

★★★★★

THE THOUGHT Vol. 9 #1-3 ($1 from Philosophers Guild, PO Box 3092, Orange, CA 92665): A freespace for essays of generally libertarian or anarchist slant, though it doesn't go so far as to be sympathetic to communists. In #2 editor Ron Tobin tackles the problem of the Amazon rain forests, while Gene Lehman and Joe David discuss education from two radical points of view. (S-22)

★★★★★

THRESHOLD #3-4 ($1.75 from Marq, PO Box 2089, 5600 CB, Eindhoven, HOLLAND): A really well-done hardcore zine that's all in English despite the largely European focus. They manage to cover US bands (Verbal Assault, No Means No) as well as folks like President Fetch from Denmark and Budapest '88 from Hungary. Good interviews, lots of photos, killer two-color cover, and of course reviews of zines I never see. #4 is a poster issue, one sheet of big paper, with an article on how to shoplift and an MDC interview — it goes for only $1. (A4-40r)

★★★★★

THROAT CULTURE #1 ($2.75 from Rob O'Connor, PO Box 6105, Union, NJ 07083): This one uses its first issue to try to break out of the music zine mold and at least partially succeeds. Besides rather lengthy and digressive live and recorded reviews, they have an absurd article on saving money on your phone bill, an illiterate tribute to Morton Downey, some ragging on MTV VJ wannabes, and other absurdities. There's also a four-song flexi here, with a particularly nice rendition of "Sigmund Freud" by Flux — much better than the title would leave you to believe. (S-26r)

★★★★★

THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE #2-4 ($1.50 from 1310 Chelton Dr., Kent, OH 44240): This is something of a contradiction in terms: a very ordinary fanzine. It's short stories and columns and jokes, told in rather unadorned styles, some with a point and some apparently pointless. Gyko Kirksonian has a talent for telling jokes, and Eugene Winnett's baseball story in #2 is sort of charming, so it's certainly worth looking into — but it lacks flash. (S-24t)

★★★★★

TOO FAR #6 (75¢ from Adrienne, 3815 San Pablo #7, Emeryville, CA 94608): Forthright and strong feminist writings from Adrienne and her friends. This zine seems to be mostly dedicated to battering down the blinders that still surround the treatment of women in this society and in the youth culture. Date rape, foot-binding, sexual harassment, and self-defense are a few of the topics here. Also includes fanzine reviews and artwork. (D-24)

★★★★★

THE TOTALLY SOCIALLY UNACCEPTABLE ALPHABET ($1.25 from Jabberwocky Graphix, PO Box 166255, Irving, TX 75016): A minicomic that's a joint production of Daniel and Donna Barr. Elegant rhyming couplets with antique-looking illustrations run through the alphabet, with such cheerful sentiments as "S is for Swim/If they can't, throw them in" and "K is for Knot/All part of the plot." Teach this to your neighbor's kids and then run. (M-28)

★★★★★

TOUCHPOINT Vol. 2 #1 ($4 from Stanfield Major, PO Box 355, McVeytown, PA 17051): A networking service for those interested in nonmonogamous relationships. They offer (optionally) coded listings grouped geographically, in which people tell about their dreams and desires for future open relationships, and a forwarding service to put people in touch. Designed for those interested in long-term interaction rather than one-night stands. (S-8r)

★★★★★

LARRY TOWSLEY

Larry sent along a small pile of mini and digest-sized comics, all available from him at 5723 Riverford Dr., Raleigh, NC 27604. Please add 25¢ postage for each dollar's worth of comics you order.

•**GEE, MISTER COMICON!** (50¢): A bit of ragging on the comics industry and the treatment by dealers of kids who come to the various comic conventions to try to get rich. Makes the authority figure look like a real slimebucket. (D-8)

•**MAD SCIENTIST** #1 (50¢): All harsh angles and fancy stark lighting, this issue is apparently intended to set up a continuing story. The mad scientist creates life and picks on a rat, while the farmboy scares his mom to death and lights out for the city. (D-8)

•**MIDGET MARINES** #1 (25¢): his one owes a lot of its style to Matt Feazell's minis, though the marines here (escapess from a war musem) vary from stick to blob figures. Not much plot, though lots of energy. (M-8)

•**MARVIN** #1-4 (25¢): Artwork by Larry and scripts by Ian Shires. Marvin is a bit of a nebbish, who seems to have somehow wandered into being a god without quite knowing what he's up to. A fantasy novel as performed by the Marx Brothers. (M-8)

•**NASA BOYS** #2 (25¢): Poorly-drawn space creatures crash on a planet apparently run by a two-headed giant. I fear this is the worst of the lot — try one of the other titles first. (M-8)

★★★★★

TRADING POST #1-2 (25¢ from Chris Caggiano, 1737 Grove St. #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385): This is simply Chris's zine of music he has available for swapping or taping, mainly punk, thrash, and hardcore. 500-plus ways to violate a copyright. In #2 Chris has started printing swap lists from other music collectors as well, to try and build up a network. (D-16)

★★★★★

TRANET #56-57 ($30/yr from PO Box 567, Rangeley, ME 04970): An international networking publication with a progressive stance. #56 is the annual members directory, with brief paragraphs from around the world, written by people interested in alternative technology. They've got a couple of programs going to spread useful information around, and some of them bear a lot of fruit. #57 has additions to their directory of transformational groups in Southeast Asia. (S-20t)

★★★★★

TRANSACTION #474 (Donation from CTI, 2222 S. Sheridan Way Unit 5, Building 2, Mississauga, ONT L5J 2M4, CANADA): From Christian Transportation Inc., this is an evangelical zine for those on the go: railroad workers, truckers, pilots, postal workers, and commercial sailors. The usual medley of stories about being saved is given a new slant by the professional emphasis. (S-4t)

★★★★★

TRANSITIONS ABROAD Jan./Feb.-Mar./Apr. 1989 ($4.50 from PO Box 344, Amherst, MA 01004): A journal of travel for those interested in studying, working or just living abroad as opposed to participating in simple tourism. The January issue focuses on the Pacific Rim, with firsthand accounts from Mt. Everest, mainland China, Australia, Korea, and the South Seas. March turns to Europe, including such exotica as horseback tours and guest working in Norway. Lots of leads for new ideas and new programs in every issue. (S-54t)

★★★★★

TRANSNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES Vol. 14 #3 ($10/yr from Case Postale 161, 1211 Geneva 16, SWITZERLAND): For "those with the longer view of world politics", this is a serious multinational journal exploring ways to promote cooperation and a defusing of tensions between nation states. #3 outlines the progress of the UN Special Sessions on Disiarmament, explores the concept of "whole system" rather than reductionist problem solving, and looks at the Afghan refugees in Pakistan. Book and international cassette cullture reviews wrap up the magazine. (A4-47t)

★★★★★

TRIAL SIZE #1 ($1 from Colin Sicc, c/o KXLU, 7101 W. 80th St., Los Angeles, CA 90045): This little music zine appears to be a spinoff from Colin's work at the radio station; in particular the Sugarcubes interview was originally done on the air. Colin also talks to Bad Religion, reviews a small pile of stuff, and prints some attacks on folks like Ollie North and Reagan. (D-24r)

★★★★★

TRUTH EFFORT #3 (Donation from Nathan Limbaugh, 8 Bloomfield Dr., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060): A little of everything with a musical core. Besides the reviews and the interview (Circle Jerks), Nathan prints poetry and skateboard pix. There's also a page given over to publicizing Earth Seals, and some inspirational words borrowed from another pro-freedom zine. (D-16r)

★★★★★

THE TRUTH SEEKER Jan.-Feb. 1989 ($15/yr from PO Box 2832, San Diego, CA 92112-2832): "The World's Oldest Freethought Publication", founded in 1873. The January issue is devoted to the memory of Tom Paine, arguing that the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights wouldn't have happened without him. They also present some Paine history and a bit of his writing. The February issue reprints legal documents showing Madalyn O'Hair's absurd attempt to take over the organization on the death of its founder. (S-9t)

★★★★★

TRUST #17 (3DM from Dolf Hermannstadter jun, Salzmanstr. 53, 8900 Augsburg, WEST GERMANY): I don't know if it's just coincidence, but I get more impressive music zines from Germany than anywhere else overseas. This remains a fat puppy, with lots of photos and competent but not boring layouts, and I presume decent writing (it's all in German). #17 includes Youth of Today, Angry Red Planet, Lethal Aggression and a bonus flexidisc with cuts from Destination Zero. (A4-72)

★★★★★

TURNING THE TIDE Vol. 2 #2 ($2.50/yr from PART, PO Box 10488, Burbank, CA 91510): From People Against Racist Terror, this is a youthful newsletter dedicated to fighting racists and their allies all over the place, from old-line groups to bonehead skinheads (which, as they and I both know, is not an indictment of all skinheads). They publish news bits from all over and information about other groups struggling against the same problem. (S-8)

★★★★★

T.W.I. #7 ($3 from Curtis Olson, PO Box 19441, Washington, DC 20036): A zine of "politics and literature". Curtis has been battening down the hatches in expectation of a shitstorm of repression, and living where he does, who can blame him? Plenty of not-quite-hysterical editorializing about the Bush administration, plus poetry, Kathy Hessler on a Christmas party for the homeless, fanzine reviews, YU news stories, and more. Pleasant and open. (S-60)

★★★★★

THE TWISTED TWERP Feb. 1989 ($2 from CASH, PO Box 2435, Lompoc, CA 93438-2435): A collection of humor and near-humor that tends towards the groaning rather than the laughing side of things. Included are rags on the Soviet space shuttle, an inagural selection of Bush jokes, a pun-filled cat story, and lots of random little bits. As the editor points out, this makes good bathroom reading. (S-6)

★★★★★

TWO-TON SANTA 3/2/89-3/15/89 (5¢ [but send a stamp too!] from 170 Union St., Portsmouth, NH 03801): One sheet of madness and creativity, folded in half to make the world's smallest literary digest. They print poems, artwork and extremely short stories, like Dan Leone's explanation of love and transmission work in the 3/15 issue. Looking for contributions for future issues. (D-4r)

★★★★★

TYG Vol. VI #1 ($1 from Paul Gardner, 20 Spruce St., Brattleboro, VT 05301): Paul is the US agent for this British Diplomacy zine, published by Mark Nelson. Diplomacy is a board game which has an intense play-by-mail community. This zine prints a lot of pletters arguing the merits of various things and people, strategy ideas, and variant rules. And of course Mark is running a few games by mail himself. A lot more attempt here to reach across the Atlantic than I've seen in other zines of the genre. (A5-32r)

★★★★★

U&lc. Vol. 16 #1 ($1.50 from ITC, 2 Hammarskjold Plaza, New York, NY 10017): "The International Journal of Typographics", this is really a house organ from International Typeface Corporation, but no less fascinating for that. Large lush pages show off various typefaces and, vastly more important, design principles and ideas — the sort of thing that tends to get lost in today's rush to desktop publishing (I should talk?). Free subscriptions for the industry; order a copy for details. (T-76t)

★★★★★

UFO Vol. 4 #1 ($4.25 from California UFO, 1800 S. Robertson Blvd. #355, Los Angeles, CA 90035): "A forum on extraordinary theories and phenomena", which translates into a place for true believers in UFOs. This issue has several articles on the mysterious black helicopters that harass contactees, an interview with Jacques Vallee, and more allegations of physical evidence in the hands of the US government. They also talk to a contactee and dip into the making of the movie version of *Communion*. (S-48t)

★★★★★

THE UGLY AMERICAN #2 ($1 from Greg Chapman, Box 2061, SSC, Pomona, NJ 08240): A sort of cranky music zine that's setting out in its own direction, something I don't see too much of these days. Maybe it's the three page acid flashback (gee, I used to write that sort of thing myself) or maybe it's trashing Rapeman and praising Wallmen, but whatever, there's a fun original spirit here. GG Allin interview and history of the Swans in this issue too. (S-40)

★★★★★

ULTRATUBE ($1 (?) from 1760 Monrovia Ave. #A-19, Costa Mesa, CA 92627): "A Picturebook of drawings on the Macintosh Plus" created by Andy Takakjian. The style is pretty simple, and gets away from the narrow geometry of straight lines and circles. Drawings are strung together to tell a sort of story about a guy and his diet of Coke, canned eggs, and mustard. (D-12)

★★★★★

THE UNDERGROUND GRAMMARIAN Vol. 12 #8-Vol. 13 #2 ($15/yr from R. Mitchell, PO Box 203, Glassboro, NJ 08028): A delightful collection of potshots at the American educational system. In the lead article of #8, Mitchell counsels us to laugh at the current state of education in this country, since the whole tottering edifice is destined to collapse soon. He may be right. In any case, he shows unerring wit in skewering the latest inanities of the people who purport to teach teachers to teach. (D-8t)

★★★★★

THE UPPITY ARMADILLO Pamayu 1989 (SASE from 815A Brazos #339, Austin, TX 78701): A politically-oriented ramble. This issue takes on the question of bigotry, suggesting a couple of easy exercises based on Neuro-Linguistic Programming for getting past it without getting stuck in guilt. There's also a contest for teens and children to propose changes to make their lives better. (S-2)

★★★★★

UP SOUTH #3 ($5/6 issues from John Brown Anti-Klan Committee, PO Box 406, Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009): A collection of news on racist incidents and other manifestations of hate groups in the New York area. Sadly, they find quite a bit to report on, not all of it the product of freelancers. (S-6)

★★★★★

USSR NEWS BRIEF No. 24 1988-No. 4 1989 ($22/yr from Das Land und Die Welt e.V., Schwanthalerstrasse 73, 8000 Munich 2, WEST GERMANY): An exhaustive chronicle of human rights news from the USSR. I am continually amazed at just how many people there are willing to risk organizing and demonstrating — and appalled at their treatment at the hands of the authorities. (D-12r)

★★★★★

THE UTNE READER #31-32 ($18/6 issues from PO Box 1974, Marion, OH 43306-[illegible]): Since their circulation is twenty times mine, I can't say anything negative without it sounding like sour grapes. With that caveat, though, I have to snicker at their claim to be "The best of the alternative press" — which means **HARPER'S, INC.**,and the **WASHINGTON POST MAGAZINE**, along with a very few things you might see mentioned here. But basically, while this is a good way to keep up with the current leftist, socially-responsible trends, it's not our sort of alternative press. Buy it if you don't read anything else dealing with animal rights, drug politics, future transportation, or other issues. (S-144t)

★★★★★

UTOPIA NOW #1 (The Usual (?) from Paul Harrison, 46 Leatham Park Road, Purston, Pontefract, West Yorkshire WF7 5DT, ENGLAND): A collection of short and basic pieces on some avant-garde art groups of this century, admittedly based in part of Stewart Home's book reviewed below. There's a family tree from Futurism to Class War, a reprint of Bob Black's "Abolition of Work", some fractured horoscopes and a few other odds and ends here. Free of deep analysis and pseudointellectuality. (A4-22)

★★★★★

VACUUMS CARTOONS Vol. 1 #1 (35¢ from PO Box 2355, Southampton, NY 11968): I'm not at all sure what to make of this minicomic. It features a variety of characters in half a dozen strips, all revolving around the joys of vacuuming and the continuing struggle to replace the broom. Inscrutable and rather primitive. (M-8)

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★★★★★

VAMP (25¢ from Doug Chapel Comics, 38 Reservoir St., Holden, MA 01520): Another short comic from this prolific artist. This time around it's new wave vampires that are the subject, specifically one such who gets her kicks out of pouncing on an art geek and sucking his blood. He doesn't really seem to mind her attentions though. (D-4)

★★★★★

THE VASTLY REVISED & THOROUGHLY ANNOTATED INTERDACTYL RESOURCE 1988 SWAMPBOOK ($4 (?) from 1341 Williamson St., Madison, WI 53703): For some folks the anarchist gathering is the highlight of the year; for others it's the New Music Seminar. For an increasing number of mail, collage, xerographic, performance and sound artists it's Madison's Festival of the Swamps. This is the record of the 1988 festival, with photos and essays from numerous participants, a schedule of what went down, and some documentation of the mail art show. A fascinating attempt to break down some of the mystique of art and create a new assault on boring culture. (D-52t)

★★★★★

VEGETARIAN VOICE Vol. 15 #3-4 ($12/yr from North American Vegetarian Society, PO Box 72, Dolgeville, NY 13329): A newsletter for vegetarians and vegans. #3 leads off with a report on the latest research on vitamin B-12, which appears to be less of a problem for vegetarians than previously thought. They also print recipes and news from vegetarian events, network people together, and sell cook- and other books. Their annual "Vegetarian Summerfest" is in July, so write quick if that sounds interesting. (T-16t)

★★★★★

VETERANS FOR PEACE JOURNAL #8 ($10/yr from PO Box 3881, Portland, ME 04104): Composed of American veterans, but with contacts to those in other countries, this group has a simple goal: the abolition of war by the year 2000. They propose to do this by making international control work, and are active on a lot of fronts, both in fighting immediate fires and working on this long-range coal. A group of committed folks with a strong vision that may well go places. (S-24)

★★★★★

VETERANS' UPDATER #2 ($2 from White Knight Productions, PO Box 656, Wautoma, WI 54982-0656): A collection of information of interest to veterans, mainly provided by the American Legion news service. Lots of political and benefit news plus human-interest stories. (S-13t)

★★★★★

VICE VERSA Vol. 4 #1 ($2 from PO Box 10432, Chicago, IL 60610-0432): A literary zine with a personality like a slightly soused uncle, full of stories and poetry that aren't quite as nice as they should be around impressionable kids. Contributions from folks like Willie Smith, Kerry Thornley, Joel Dailey and Alan Catlin make this collection of poems and short stories a wild place of phone sex, cockroach icons, drunk parole skippers, and other seedy types. (D-48t)

★★★★★

VICIOUS HIPPIES FROM PANDA HELL #5 (SASE from Box 115, 2718 SW Kelly #C, Portland, OR 97201): A small music zine that focuses mostly on local bands, which in Portland means primarily garage rock and related genres. Besides gossip and reviews, this issue features intoerviews with Dust Blair, Drivetrain, and Some Velvet Sidewalk. (D-14r)

★★★★★

VICTOR'S MAILBAG #2 (50¢ from Victor Gates, 552 Lancelot Dr., North Salt Lake, UT 84054): This zine is composed of letters about Victor's minicomics — chiefly **LIFE COMICS AND STORIES**. He's taken the unusual and time-saving approach of reproducing the letters as written, yped or even drawn (though in reduced size) — so this is rather like reading over his shoulder as he opens the mail. Fun. (S-4r)

★★★★★

VIETNAM WAR NEWSLETTER #79 ($22.95/12 issues from PO Box 469, Collinsville, CT 06022): Published by a Vietnam vet, this one is a central clearinghouse for information on "America's longest war and its aftermath." They cover everything from recent MIA finds to postwar uses for helicopter skills. The same address is good for the Vietnam bookstore, which stocks both mainstream and small press books on the war at reasonable prices. (D-28)

★★★★★

VIEW FROM THE LEDGE #26 ($1 (?) from Chuck Shepherd, PO Box 57141, Washington, DC 20037): After years of making this available only by word of mouth, Chuck has agreed to have it reviewed. This is the funny side of life in all its glory, lifted entirely from legitimate news sources: concrete enemas, kids killed while "train surfing", marijuana discount coupons, protesting prostitutes, and much more. A laugh a second. (S-4r)

★★★★★

VIRGINIA LIBERTY Vol. 5 #1/2 ($10/yr from LPVA, PO Box 28263, Richmond, VA 23228): The newsletter of the Virginia state Libertarian Party. They're not exceptionally active as state parties go, but this issue seems to be trying to fire people up again, so look to the future. Marc Montoni tells a frustrating tale of jury duty in this issue. (T-4t)

★★★★★

VOICES FROM SPIRIT Vol. 2 #9 ($4/6 issues from PO Box 5155, Ellsworth, ME 04605): A "spiritist" journal which does a lot of talking to dead folks — in #9 it's Crazy Horse, in #10 they promise Anne Frank. They also publish a medley of metaphysical and spiritual articles, plus ads for other folks on the divinatory and mystical side of things. (S-8t)

★★★★★

A VOICE WITHOUT SIDES #3 (65¢ & a stamp from dbqp, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): A 3" by 4" sticker of very short poetry-phrases printed in garish colors. Works from Jake Berry, Greg Evason and George Swede share the room. Attractive and offbeat. (M-1)

★★★★★

VOID! #10 ($2 from J.J. Haws, 208 Catalpa Rd., Lexington, KY 40502): A collection of texts designed to confuse and enlighten, plus some equally obscure comic art. These include Bob Black on Watsonian anarchism, an EJ Barnes depiction of the tree of life, some modern vampirism, a pro-choice editorial piece, and an inside back cover that could have been swiped from the Discordians but wasn't. Certainly more intriguing than most of what I see. (S-24)

★★★★★

VOID-POST #3 (50¢ (?) from Post-Void Radio Theater, PO Box 19427, Minneapolis, MN 55419): The radio promo zine of the folks who do the Little City In Space show, whose cassettes are revierwed in our music section this time around (look for "Golden Cage of Radio"). This is a bizarre selection of the serious and the absurd, promos for a campy space station show combined with reviews of other products they enjoy. A fun feeling pervades the very pages of this production. (S-8t)

★★★★★

WACK JAB 88 (SASE (?) from J. Hall, PO Box 2753, Norman, OK 73070): This one arrived without explanation; I'm not even sure that's the title. In any case, this is a collage of words and images with a punk look but an evangelistic sound. There's some particularly odious stuff on curing homosexuality, some poems, anti-abortion and anti-television stuff. (S-6r)

★★★★★

WASHINGTON PEACE LETTER Vol. 25 #11 ($10/11 issues from Washington Peace Center, 2111 Florida Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20008): A long-running and wide-ranging selection of coverage of the peace movement in this country. #11 is highlighted by articles on the possibility of peace in the middle east, but it also has an update on the Pledge of Resistance, photos from the year just past, and much more. Dedicated folks with a vision. (T-12)

★★★★★

THE WASHINGTON REPORT ON MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS Vol. VII #10-12 ($2 from PO Box 53062, Washington, DC 20009): Balanced and in-depth coverage of politics (and occasionally other things) all over the Mideast. #10 contains an analysis of the situation in Afgahnistan and possible futures there as well as a brief interview with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. #12 reports on the Michigan Daily's being harassed over what were seen as anti-Israeli editorials, and comments on the possibility of another Iranian revolution. And every issue has dozens of short news bits and reprints from other parts of the press. (S-50t)

★★★★★

WEEKLY SIN (75¢ from Gary Wray, 23118 Vanowen, West Hills, CA 91307): A minicomic-sized medley of clippings, most apparently from the WEEKLY WORLD NEWS. A quick dose of the bizarre as seen in American supermarket culture. (M-8t)

★★★★★

WE THE PEOPLE #37 ($2 from Michael Wolff, PO Box 704, South Houston, TX 77587-0704): An amateur press association designed for discussion of politics. There aren't a whole lot of members, but they cover a wide ideological range and have a lot to say, from election post-mortems to Confederate fiction to pro-life bashing. Fun and sometimes feisty. (S-102)

★★★★★

WHA-A-AM! #11 ($2 from Elizabeth Pepin, PO Box 170226, San Francisco, CA 94117): Mod, ska, and like genres...they're music, but they're also a way of life, notably involving scooters and retro fashion. All facets of this lifestyle are here, with the music of the Trebels and the Cybermen, scooter races and maintenance tips, fashion photo pages and a contact list of zines that gets much more into this stuff than I do. Well done nad friendly, though wildly different from most youth culture today. (S-36t)

★★★★★

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT #2-3 ($3 from Alan Blaustein, 89 E. 3rd St. #5C, New York, NY 10003): A mix of poetry and artworks, including some hand-coloring and stick-ons and what-not. The artists and poets here seem to incline towards an exploration of relationships, particularly in #3, which has a Valentine's theme. I really like Marie Grottola's little sketch drawings and Les Bridges poetry. (S-20)

★★★★★

WHAT? NO EYEBALLS?!?! ($2.50 from BCT, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): A collection of art and comics from Carrie, whose work you've seen here and elsewhere. She draws all sorts of things from a strange hallucinatory punk underground, heavy with skulls and gloomy youth and skateboards and alienation. Really neat work here that's a joy to page through, from her first strip ever to much recent work. (S-52)

★★★★★

WHAT NOW #1-3 ($2.50 from 23 Nelson St. #3, Kingston, ONT K7L 3W6, CANADA): A diverse mix of stuff: some music, some feminism, some poetry and other odds and ends. Denise D'Fantis contributes strong feminist writing, while Dr. Weasle looks at famous punkers like Rollins and MacKaye as well as the punk ethos. There's also some funny stuff like their series of profile pages on great philosophers. A lot of alternative voices worth taking a listen to. (S-44)

★★★★★

WHAT'S THE POINT? #3 ($1.50 from PO Box 461, Bellflower, CA 90706): A pretty basic punk music zine from Igby, who also puts out tapes under the Mosh Frog label. In this issue he talks to Grudge, Dissent, Self Infliction and Grimace Abortion. The reviews have the guts (or the gall) to attach numerical ratings as well as critic-talk to the records and zines. (D-32)

★★★★★

WHAT'S WHAT #9 ($1 from Marc, 350 Cannady Ct., Atlanta, GA 30350): Music coverage that's mostly interviews: 7 Seconds, Big Dipper, Johnny Ramone, and more. There's also a short Sonic Youth show review and a few record reviews. Not too ambitious yet, but a dollar's worth of writing. (S-14)

★★★★★

WHO CAN BE AGAINST? #2 (35¢ to $1.25 from Pope Jamie Lee Rake I, 320 S. Watertown St., Waupun, WI 53963): A single-sheet zine of Christian music done in itty-bitty handwriting. It's a bit marred by weak copying, but even so you can read Jamie's contemplations about the curious state of Christian music today, with the fundies getting down on something that others use as a tool to spread the word. A few reviews tuck in amongst the editorials and news bits. (S-2r)

★★★★★

WHO CARES ABOUT APATHY? #5-6 (25 ¢ postage from Brian, 93 Bellevue Ave., Warwick, RI 02888): A quick broadside of punk music. On one side there's Concrete Sox (from Britain), and on the other, Raped Teenagers (from Sweden), interviewed about their respective music and scenes. #6 has Satan's Warriors and Sons of Ishmael. (L-2r)

★★★★★

WHOLE EARTH REVIEW #62 ($20/4 issues from PO Box 38, Sausalito, CA 94966-9924): The essential guide to "tools and ideas" in what we used to call the counterculture. #62 is the "Good News for a Change" issue, with articles on the Mondragon cooperatives, innovative high school education, organic farming, women in the martial arts, tropical reforestation, small farms, and other hopeful ideas. And as always there are pages of reviews of books, magazines, power tools, videos and other things of interest to those trying to build a better world. (S-160t)

★★★★★

THE WHOLE PERSON Jan. 1989 ($15/yr from 3909 Via Dolce, Marina Del Rey, CA 90291): "A Calendar of Los Angeles Events", with the emphasis on the New Age and related topics. A quick glance shows Course in Miracles study groups, Kabbalistic Meditation, a weekend at an organic farm, "Unleashing the Goddess", and a clothing optional resort. Hundreds of listings, together with all manner of ads from the usual New Age and esoteric suspects. Enough to keep you busy every night of the month. (S-88t)

★★★★★

WHOMANWARP Autumn 1988 ($4 from 2728 St. Paul St., Baltimore, MD 21218): A lovingly-crafted "Art and Literary Journal of Woman". Their focus is on trying to reveal various perspectives on the experience of woman, to encourage forgotten or suppressed perspectives to come forth. A mixed group of poets, writers and visual artists tackle this task, with thought-provoking results. In particular, Mary Shock goes back to the body in trying to understand the idea of a separate realm of female experience, while Gabriellle Keith explores the metaphor of the yarn doll — two among many excellent thoughtful contributions here. (S-60t)

★★★★★

WIDE AWAKE #2 ($1 from PO Box 116805, Carrollton, TX 75011): A seemingly-random collection from the odder side of our culture: dirty jokes, Ronald Reagan on trial in Tripoli, Charles Manson quotes, suggestive headlines and so on, all collaged together. For 75¢ each you can also get **WIDE AWAKE'S COMIC-ART RAG** of drawings or **WIDE-AWAKE'S NUCLEAR POETRY** the latter featuring downer works by Jeff Williams and the most focused of the three. (S-6 and D-12)

★★★★★

WILMINGTON COLLEGE PEACE RESOURCE CENTER NEWSLETTER Vol. 11 #3 (Donation from Pyle Center, Box 1183, Wilmington, OH 45177): Just what the title says: a place to go to get materials to promote the idea of peace. They look at current activities of the peace movement and make a wide variety of printed and video materials available to those wanting to teach peace. They also tie the reader in to other sources of information. (S-6t)

★★★★★

WINDOW Vol. 5 #1-6 ($1 from 7 S. 6th St. #205, Terre Haute, IN 47807): An alternative tabloid that's still searching for a voice. One thing for sure is that they don't want to play second fiddle to the "legit" newspaper in town, and their investigative reporting provides some sly digs in that direction. Music reviews, the perils of a college degree, and the situation in Palestine define the scope of #1. #6 takes a focused look at the future of Terre Haute. (T-16t)

★★★★★

WIRE Feb. 1989 ($1 (?) from KCMU, Seattle, WA 98195): A radio-station based zine that is not a program guide. Instead, they feature articles about the music they play and the people who make it possible, from Billy Bragg to the folks who run Sub Pop Records. Ben Vaughn also features in this issue. (S-16t)

★★★★★

WORCESTER MAGAZINE 1/11/89-2/1/89 ($15/yr from PO Box 1000, Worcester, MA 01614-1000): "Central Massachusetts' Free Weekly" has a nice look and a good selection of features inside. Besides carrying Hunter Thompson's ravings (which immediately prejudices me in their favor), and the usual selection of local cultural news and calendar, they also do good feature articles: Jon Vankin's examination of Academic Freedom in the 1/11 issue is a case in point. Definitely worth it to anyone in the area and to displaced Worcesterites. (T-32t)

★★★★★

WORD #1 ($1 from Tad Keyes, 2226 Farris Ct., Rockford, IL 61108): A new punk music zine that starts off with some pretty high-powered interviews: Verbal Assault, Dag Nasty, and Public Enemy among them. There are also various bits of poetry and short reviews and an interview with Amanda McKaye who runs Sammich Records. (S-24r)

★★★★★

WORD BURGERR ($1 from Boris, 325 Douglas, San Francisco, CA 94114): "Art & Comix & shit" according to the cover, which is as goof a description as any. There's rants against the government and big business, violent comics, and psychedelic doodles, most apparently reprinted from other sources. An edgy near-psychotic feeling pervades the whole. (D-28)

★★★★★

WORLD DEMOCRACY NEWS #5 (Donation from 260 16th St. #1 SE, Washington, DC 20003-1552): A valuable networking resource for folks who want to see the tenets of democracy extended round the globe. They envision a system of federation and decentralization, with current nation-states being superseded but not entirely eliminated. Lots of links to other writings and organizations with similar interests. (S-12t)

★★★★★

THE WORLD OF SCRATCHFACE DOODLEHEAD ($1.50 from Ozone Press, PO Box 95588, Seattle, WA 98145): A comic book featuring a character with no face beyond some meaningless scribbles. That sets the tone for the rest of the nonsense here. There's a team-up strip with Wayne Honath's "Howie The Hat" to lead things off. A very kitschy production. (D-19)

★★★★★

THE WRENCHING DEBATE GAZETTE #7 ($1 (?) from 1801 Connecticut Ave. NW, 2nd Fl., Washington, DC 20009): These folks are concerned with the continued poisoning of the earth, but they're even more concerned with the current media spotlight on this, knowing full well that such issues tend to fade in short order. Toxic waste will still be with us, though, unless people take grass-roots action — which is what they're trying to do here. It's not all talk; they've organized one demo and have others planned, together with meetings to build a network of activists. (S-10)

★★★★★

WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER 1/23/89-4/17/89 ($5/4 issues from Dave Meltzer, PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228): All about wrestling, from industry gossip to rundowns on the personalities to letters from informed fans. The 1/30 issue has a fascinating story about cable TV wars over the best pay-per-view dates. 2/20 has some well-thought-out comments on the recent admissions to the NJ legislature that it's all a fake, and 3/13 follows up with more on wrestling commissions. The 3/20 issue leads off with a eulogy for Paul Boesch. 4/17 has the reports on the big Super Sunday II television matches.(S-8r)

★★★★★

WRITER'S BLOCK #4 ($1.50 from Mike Appelstein, 37 Grand Blvd., Spotswood, NJ 08884): Nope, this isn't about writing but about music; specifically, it seems rooted in college radio type sounds, but not too closely so: there's a Black Girls review in the live section, for example. Bands of note here include Mekons, Spiral Jetty, and Young Marble Giants. Competent coverage. (S-20r)

★★★★★

WRONG CONCLUSION #1-2 ($1.50 from 217 Clark St. #4, Bristol, VA 24201): A new musical offering from the ruins of PSYCHIC SEX TURNIP. The main thing in the first issue is a Jello Biafra interview; he's still the same charming asshole as ever. There's also a heap of record reviews and quite a bit of fascination with GG Allin. #2 features interviews with Gwar and Bazooka Joe. Editor Johnny Puke also has a batch of live punk videos for sale. (S-28r)

★★★★★

XENO-FILE Vol. 1 #3 ($1 from Con-Version, PO Box 1088, Stn. M, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2K9, CANADA): A pretty basic science fiction zine with a scattershot mix of features, apparently aimed at relative newcomers. This issue has some opinion on the most recent Worldcon, a selection of headlines from the WEEKLY WORLD NEWS, book and television criticism, and some notes on Soviet SF fandom. (S-9r)

★★★★★

XEX GRAPHIX NEWSLETTER #9 (On Request from PO Box 240-611, Memphis, TN 38124): A mix of ads for comics from the Xex line of crazy underground stuff and reviews of other people's work. The latter covers a lot more mini and digest-sized comics than I ever see, and gives contact addresses and occasional artwork excerpts. (D-16r)

★★★★★

YCD #1 ($1 (?) from Secundra Beasley, 12517 Lancelot, Cleveland, OH 44108): More the germ of an idea than a full-blown zine, but the first issue shows promise. The title stands for "Yuppies Can't Dance", and Secundra seems intent on critiquing a fashion-mad society. Collage, reviews, and a short art-essay on expensive clothing and simple pleasures. (D-14)

★★★★★

YEAH! #17 ($6/12 issues from PO Box 85256, Seattle, WA 98145): A look at live music in the Seattle area. #17 includes a "YEAH! In Review" section of reminiscences over 1988, as well as quick stories on Meat Puppets, Mudhoney, Walkabouts and more. (T-8t)

★★★★★

YOUR FLESH #15 ($3.50 from PO Box 2683, Loop Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55402): All manner of great music coverage combined with some truly snazzy graphics and sexual advice from Lisa LaBia. On the comic front, Ferret gets into trouble with some skinheads. On the music front, we have American Music Club, Government Issue, lazy Cowgirls, the Fluid, and more. A heaping helping of reviews takes up about half the zine, making this a prime source for info. (S-82t)

★★★★★

ZAP #11 (3.50DM from M. Arndt, Schutzenstr. 6, 6650 Homburg, WEST GERMANY): A lot of hardcore music and a lot of writing in German — indeed, all of this zine is directed at internal consumption rather than pandering to our more parochial linguistic abilities. Vaguely reminiscent of FLIPSIDE, this issue features Lethal Aggression, Cosmic Wurst, Youth of Today, Die Toten Hosen, and more bands, as well as zine and record reviews. (A4-54)

★★★★★

ZEEEEEN! #3 ($1.50 from 84 McCartin Street, Leongatha, Victoria 3953, AUSTRALIA): A cheerful little music zine with interviews ranging from a down under group called Cannanes (who all answer all the questions leading to an intriguing parallel structure) to Iggy Pop. There are also various graphics, comic, record and live reviews, and some silly stuff. As an insert there is a collection of poetry and short stories from Darren O'Shannassy, available separately for 50¢. (A4-27t)

★★★★★

ZENDIK FARM TRIBE MAGAZINE ($2 cash/MO from Cary Roberts, Zendik Farm, 1431 Tierra Del Sol Rd., Boulevard, CA 92005): An inspiring zine from a commune full of people who are trying to build a new tribalism to help out with human survival. They're into music and dropping out of the rat race and seem open to anyone who feels strongly and wants to work hard at it. And they're not only into their own thing; they also recommend TOPY and other modern tribal experiments. This issue includes an interview with Henry Rollins as well as the usual mix of spiritual and political chats. (S-72)

★★★★★

ZENGER Vol. 3 #1 ($6/yr from PO Box 3481, Madison, WI 53704): "The Nation's Underground Newspaper" with the cheerfully irreverent attitudes of the sixties. Drugs, scandalous allegations about politicians, conspiracy theories, explosive devices aimed at narcs, environmental damage, hitchhiking and insurrection in New Mexico are a few of the topics here. Inspirational and only a bit paranoid. (T-16t)

★★★★★

ZERO #5 ($2 from PO Box 832, Brookline Village, MA 02147-0832): More wild comics and artwork from Mike Manning and friends. Lots of this stuff is rather obscure, pages with alien scripts behind naked bodies, a necrophilia comic, odd dreams of car crashes, gory people and so on. Definitely adventurous and rather hermetic. Sports a neat color cover. (S-50)

★★★★★

Z MISCELLANEOUS Vol. 2 #6 ($5 from PO Box 20041, New York, NY 10028): This mammoth litmag is still developing; #6 adds a bit more art as well as a page of mail art among their stocking-stuffer surprises. Plenty of poetry and prose here, including a curious essay by Edward Conti on the writing of biographical notes and stories from William Rasmussen and Bruce Boston. Plenty of stuff to dig around in looking for what you like. (S-126)

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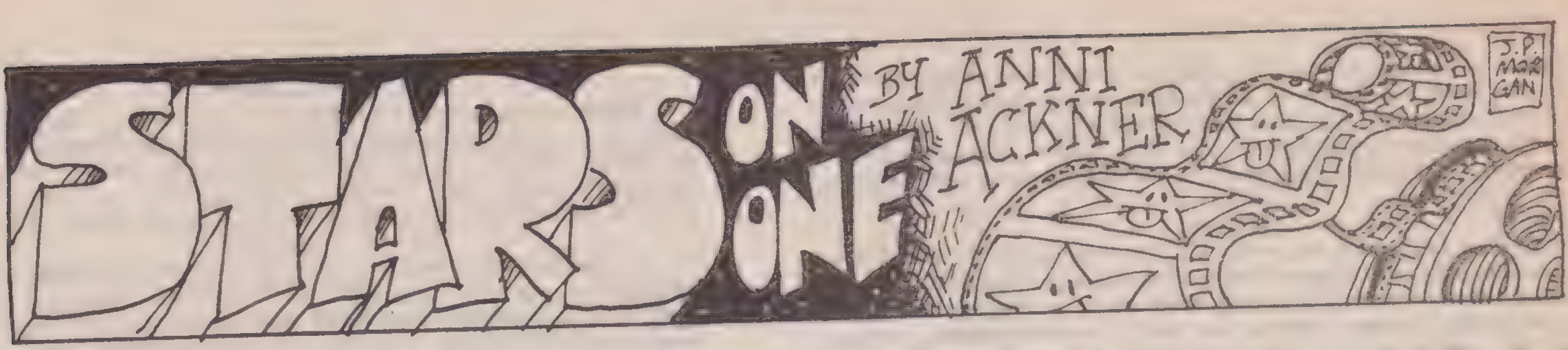


Now, this is sort of about the visual arts, and it's sort of not about the visual arts, and if you think it isn't enough about the visual arts to run under this column heading, I'm afraid you're going to have to bear with me this once. I hate to pull rank on you this way — I like to think of this as Our Column, though, as a matter of fact, I haven't failed to notice that the rest of you seem generally to be out on a marshmallow roast or something when it's 12 hours before deadline and I'm locked in my lonely flat, rhythmically beating my head against the floor — but I think this is the only column I'm capable of writing just at this moment, so it's going to have to be done. Maybe things will be back to normal by next time, always assuming, of course, that I can come up with some sort of handy definition of what "normal" is.

In any event, I suppose that most of you know by now that Abbie Hoffman is dead. As of this writing, we don't know why he died, though there are those of us who find it suspicious that a 52 year old, apparently healthy man was found fully clothed and under the covers of his bed (there are probably few of us who have not, at one time or another, fallen asleep with out clothes on, but we usually don't cover ourselves with blankets before doing it, nor do we typically wear our shoes to bed), that the death was announced on the local news with the opening words "Police do not suspect foul play in the death of activist Abbie Hoffman", and that the autopsy has thus far proved "inconclusive", but that isn't really what's important anyway. The important thing about Abbie Hoffman — and, ideally, about all of us — is that he lived, and the way he lived.

In one of the many television obituaries of Hoffman that have aired over the past several days — some of them a bit snide, some awed, some condescending, some of them merely dull, and all of them, as seems to be the way with obituaries, saying more about the writer than they do about the subject — the commentator remarked, in a voice-over, as film clips showcasing some of Hoffman's more outrageous activities rolled, that it was hard to believe, in this day and age, that Hoffman had once been considered "a clear and present danger". The implication was, of course, that anyone that loud, that noisy, that outlandish, that given to spectacle and theatrics and parody, that downright *silly*, could hardly be considered a threat to anything in the terribly serious world we have built for ourselves. And yet Hoffman was first, foremost, and always, a gloriously, fabulously clear and present danger to all manner of things we like to believe we stand for, and it was precisely the theatrics, the silliness and absurdity of some of the things he did that caused him to be so.

Do you remember the Viet Nam war? Or, more precisely, do you remember what it was like to live in America during the years of the Viet Nam war when, at just about any time during a typical television broadcast day, in just about any place in the country, you could flip on your set and have the War come into your living room or kitchen or bedroom whether you wanted it to or not? Do you remember how constant, how always *there* the war seemed, and yet how much a part of the background, the white noise of your daily life?

Wars, of course, have always been presented visually. Since the invention of the camera they've been photographed and reproduced over and over again for the enlightenment or interest or even, sometimes, amusement, of those lucky enough to not be directly participating in them. Before we had camera, they were sketched and painted, and after movie cameras came in there were newsreels and documentary footage. But the Viet Nam war, partly just because of the timing — there was television during the years of the Korean War, but it was nowhere near as widespread and pervasive a medium as it had become by the early sixties — and partly because of the nature of this particular war itself, was unique in its accessibility, the minuteness of the detail presented, the tenacity of its images. If you were enough of a news junkie, or enough of a masochist, you could wake up to body counts on the *Today* show, lunch with troop movements on the local noon reports, have your dinner with footage of children dying from napalm burns on the 6 o'clock national broadcasts, and drift off to sleep — if you could sleep — with interviews with foot soldiers courtesy of Walter Cronkite or Huntley and Brinkley at 11 o'clock. The thing about all this coverage was that you didn't have to go to the movies to see it (and then forget it in the glow of Clark Gable or Greta Garbo), and it couldn't be folded up and thrown away like a newspaper: that lousy box was sitting there, somewhere in your house, waiting to show you the unshowable. You turned it on at your own peril; you couldn't escape the damned thing. The Viet Nam war was the most visual and visualized war we've ever had. It was The Television War, The Bedroom War, the War when the Medium became the Message. Naturally enough, however, while we were shocked by the on-going repetition of horror, we also developed a sort of callousness and casualness about it, because the mind, as any current pop psychologist will tell you, when faced with what it can not endure, will build defenses to protect itself.

Abbie Hoffman understood television. That was the first thing. He was born slightly too early to really be considered a vidkid — that generation of us whose parents used that wonderful new entertainment device as an all-purpose babysitter-teacher-playmate-surrogate — but he was young enough when television really started taking hold to appreciate and understand, consciously or unconsciously, all its tricks and nuances. He understood — and maybe he was one of the first (remember that the Chicago Convention was only eight years after the election of John Kennedy, the first president to understand and use the power of television, and the one who did it best, at least until the advent of Ronald Reagan) — that a broadcast day was a finite period of time, and the time allotted to broadcast news only a fraction of that, while there was a nearly infinite variety of events and event-makers vying for space within that time, so that if you wanted to get your point across, if you wanted to get that air-time, your piece of the space within the time, you had to be fast, you had to be memorable, you had, sometimes, to be outlandish and outrageous, to whatever limits you could allow yourself to go.

More importantly, but parallel to this, Hoffman had an instinctive grasp of something that many other political theorists and activists fail to see, even after years of study: the only way to battle the absurd (and most of what we call politics, and all of what we call war, is basically absurd) successfully is to be equally absurd, and, moreover, people put on the defensive are incapable of learning in any meaningful way. Put another way, people remember what amuses them, what makes them laugh, and if you're very lucky, they think about it afterwards, and realize what you meant. People struggle to forget what belittles, and makes them angry at themselves, and sometimes, if you want to show them how crazy a situation is, you have to be a little crazy yourself. The best thinkers and doers and teachers know this — it's what separates them from the average run of debaters and dissidents and rhetoric-mongers. Abbie Hoffman knew this and, combined with his knowledge of television, it presented a powerful and effective weapon.

There was nothing more absurd than the Viet Nam war and, later, the whole paranoia of the Nixon years. The Viet Nam war was bloody and wasteful and deadly and stupid and nobody had a terribly clear idea of just what the hell we were doing there, and how the hell we could stop. It was nuts, it was wacko, it was patriotism as seen by Salvador Dali. And Richard Nixon was a crackpot with fantasies of guilt and glory, who planted operatives in the meetings of subversive organizations like NOW and NAACP (oh yes, he did. You could look it up) and had people keeping tabs on the books being taken out of the library by "known dissidents" (I used to borrow MEIN KAMPF every so often, just to give them something to think about). In the face of such insanity, and in the face of a people grown jaded by constant exposure to such insanity, what do you do, if you possess that powerful weapon we spoke about? If you also possess bravery and conviction and lunacy and real patriotism — as opposed to the kind that has to hide safely behind Pledging Allegiance, and needs to glare at anything that looks even faintly like disagreement or "insubordination" — if you are, in short, Abbie Hoffman — then you hold a mirror up to the craziness by being even crazier than they are, and you run on the belief — or maybe the trust — that by doing so, someday, as it should be, the inmates will be running the asylum.

So if they call a bombing raid on an unarmed civilian outpost a "pre-emptive strike", and a retreat by Our Side "reverse advancement", you get a group of your buddies together and attempt to levitate the Pentagon. If Bobby is dead and Gene is emasculated and it looks like your "choices" for president are Richard Nixon and Hubert Humphrey, nominate a pig — a literal one — instead. If they're worried that you're going to "disrupt" the Democratic nominating convention, calmly announce that not only are you planning to disrupt the convention, you have every intention of dumping the dreaded killer LSD into Chicago's water supply. Drape yourself in the American flag, create a new political party called "Yippie!", and if your trial for conspiracy turns out to be a circus, you bring the elephants and the clowns. It's fast, it's funny, it's sort of dumb when looked at in a logical sense, and it gets you on television, where people can see you and think you're stupid — rather than thinking that they are themselves — and laugh at you, and get outraged, and then, if all the forces of the universe and whatever's beyond it are on your side, maybe, maybe, while they're laughing, something you said gets lodged in their brains, and starts to nudge and bug and fester and grow.

Was Abbie Hoffman a "clear and present danger" to everything that makes us comfortable, to all the lies we tell ourselves, and the stories that let us sleep at night? You bet he was. Thank God.

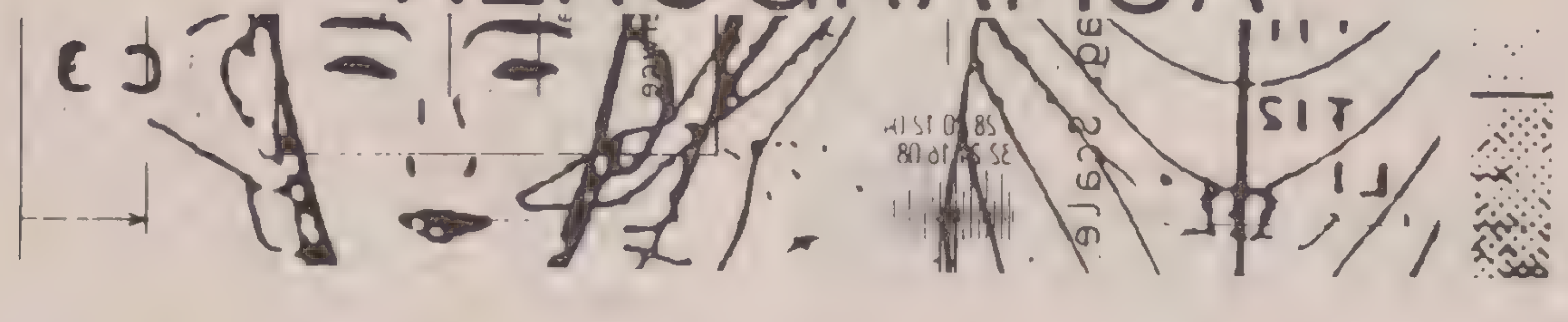
Coincidentally, the weekend after Hoffman died happened to be the hundredth anniversary of the birth of Charlie Chaplin. Now, it is not my intention to offend either fans of Chaplin or fans of Hoffman with this comparison — particularly since I see it as a compliment to both men — but there are a lot of similarities between Chaplin and Hoffman. You know, they thought Chaplin was a subversive too, so much so that they virtually kicked him out of this country and didn't let him back in until he was too old and frail to cause them any more trouble (or so they thought — just look at the expression on his face in some of those clips of the Oscar ceremony at which he received a special award for his life's work: the body may have been giving out, the words may have been tactful, but the bullshit meter was as intact as ever). And they were right, too, though not for the reasons they thought. Chaplin wasn't subversive because of any so-called Communist leanings he might have had — Communists, as anyone who has ever hung around with them can tell you, are probably the least imaginative, and therefore least dangerous, group of people in the entire world — but because he had a handle on the same weapons that Hoffman did. In Chaplin's movies, the Little Tramp always won, somehow. Knocked down, trampled, kicked, humiliated, laughed at; nevertheless, he always managed to triumph, in one way or another. He had dignity. He had a strange kind of pride, and most of all, he was funny. He's still funny — unlike the humor in many silent films, which seems, by our standards, juvenile and forced, Chaplin's has held up, because, again, it's the humor of the crazy mirror held up against a world that's lost its mind. It's sneaky and it's sly and it works because, through all out laughter, the image of our little selves standing triumphant against the massed forces of Them — whoever we perceive Them to be — gets lodged in our brains, and starts to nudge and, well, you know the rest. And this isn't Communist or Capitalist or anarchist or discordian or any of the other names we like to call ourselves — it's just some beautiful weirdness we're all harboring, that occasionally needs a bit of coaxing (or a good kick in the head) to make itself known.

Chaplin once described his Little Tramp as "gentleman, poet, dreamer, lonely soul". This is also, without getting too ooky about it — okay, I know. Too late — a pretty fair description of Abbie Hoffman and, perhaps (allowing for gender), a pretty fair description of the rest of us, as well, or, more accurately, the rest of us at our ideal best. And Abbie is dead and Chaplin is dead and there are giant oil spills in Alaska and Nancy Reagan is going on crack house busts and our current president used to be the head of the CIA (and what's even worse is that people seem to consider that one of his main assets) and Oprah Winfrey's diet got more publicity than the pro-choice march on Washington and you can go on and on until *not* passing those open windows begins to seem like a viable alternative (News Flash: A bulletin just announced that autopsy results now prove that Abbie Hoffman committed suicide. Well, I wonder. That's all. I just...wonder). Except that somewhere, maybe quite close, there's got to be someone else, someone new, who knows about those weapons, who knows about humor and silliness and television — or whatever the prevailing medium will be by then — and those sticky things we can't forget. And when he or she decides it time to become a clear and present danger...okay, things won't necessarily get better, but we'll be able to see them just slightly more clearly, without all their disguises. And what you can clearly see, you can begin to fight.

And *that* is something. It really is.

For Elayne Wechsler

XEROGRAFICA



by Stephen Perkins

HE WHO RODE A TIGER

Chester Carlson (1906-1968)

In October, 1988, an anniversary was celebrated for an invention, without which many of the magazines in **FACTSHEET FIVE** would not exist. For October 22nd was the 50th anniversary of the invention of xerography. The Xerox corporation celebrated this with the introduction of a new line of copiers called the *50 series* and the U.S. Postal Service issued a commemorative 21¢ stamp (postage for a postcard to Canada). No doubt Chester Carlson, xerography's modest and retiring inventor, would have appreciated the irony of the almost obsolete nature of this stamp in comparison to the stature of his invention.

Born February 8th, 1906, in Seattle, Washington, Carlson was an only child whose life had humble and poor beginnings. His father was an itinerant barber, nothing has been written about his mother, and both parents were descendants of Swedish immigrants. Carlson takes up the story: "About a year after I was born my father was brought down with a severe case of tuberculosis. As if that were not enough, he also developed arthritis of the spine, the two together rapidly reduced him to a bent, emaciated wreck of a man who was to spend the greater part of each day for the next 26 years lying flat on his back, wracked by coughing spells and defeated by the world. This, plus the resulting poverty and isolation, was to have a profound effect on my development."

During the next few years the Carlson family moved around following the father's work. They finally settled in San Bernardino, California. By the age of fourteen Carlson had become the family's chief means of support. He was working after school and on weekends. From the following quote it becomes clear that, even at this point in his life, Carlson was already beginning to scheme ways in which he could ameliorate his economic situation, satisfy his inquisitive and technical mind, and realize his early humanistic (and later philanthropic) leanings. "Work outside of school hours was a necessity at an early age, and with such time as I had I turned towards interests of my own devising, making things, experimenting, and planning for the future. I had read of Edison and other successful inventors and the idea of making an invention appealed to me as one of the few available means to accomplish a change in one's economic status, while at the same time bringing to focus my interest in technical things and making it possible to make a contribution to society as well."

Many years later in an interview with Alfred Dinsdale, he was asked what were the early influences in the search that led to the invention of xerography, and he replied: "Well, I had a fascination with the graphic arts from childhood. One of the first things I wanted was a typewriter — even when I was in grammar school. Then, when I was in high school I liked chemistry and I got the idea of publishing a little magazine for amateur chemists. I also worked for a printer in my spare time and he sold me an old printing press which he had discarded. I paid for it by working for him. Then I started to set my own type and print this little paper, I don't think I printed more than two issues, and they weren't much. However, this experience did impress me with the difficulty of getting words into hard copy and this, in turn started me thinking about duplicating processes, I started a little inventor's notebook and I would jot down ideas from time to time."

Meanwhile Carlson graduated from high school, attended Riverside Junior College for three years, taking a co-operative course (which enabled him to work and study at the same time) and then transferred to the California Institute of Technology where he received his BS degree in physics, with a minor in chemistry, in 1930.

Looking for a job at the beginning of the Depression was not easy, and Carlson applied to 82 firms before he got a job as a $35-a-week research engineer at Bell Telephone Laboratories in New York. Finding this work routine and dull he requested a transfer to the patent department which he thought would bring him into contact with newer and more interesting developments in the field. Carlson became an assistant to a patent attorney for the next two years, until the Depression once again took its toll and he was laid off in 1933.

Of this period Carlson recounts: "So then I walked the streets for a while, with the thousands of other men, and finally landed a job in a patent attorney's office down near Wall Street, working on patent applications. I served my apprenticeship, ended up my clerkship there, thus enabling me to be registered as a patent attorney." (At this time it was possible to become a patent attorney without actually having a law degree). After working at this firm for about a year, he accepted a better job in the patent office of the electronics firm P.R. Mallory & Co. Seeking more legal knowledge Carlson studied nights for his law degree at the New York Law School (receiving his degree in 1939).

Carlson notes "...by 1935 I was more or less settled, I had my job, but I didn't think I was getting ahead very fast. I was just living from hand to mouth, you might say, and I had just got married. It was a kind of hard struggle. So I thought the possibility of making an invention might kill two birds with one stone: it would be a change to do the world some good and also a chance to do myself some good."

While working at his office Carlson noted that there never seemed to be enough carbon copies of patent specifications. The two most practical ways of getting additional copies at the time were either photographic or carbon copies. Both these processes had their drawbacks: photographic copying was expensive and carbon copying was time consuming and needed to be checked for errors. It struck him that what offices needed was a device which would take an original document and make an exact copy within seconds.

Having defined his problem Carlson began researching all the different imaging processes. Months of research at the New York Public Library followed ("Things don't come to mind readily all of a sudden, like pulling things out of the air. You have to get an inspiration from somewhere and usually you get it from reading something else"). Discarding the idea of conventional photography since many research labs at the time were exploring this field, he began to look into a specialized area known as photoconductivity. Basically what this phenomenon consists of is that when light strikes a layer of photoconductive material the electrical conductivity of the material is increased. Spurred on by the findings of a Hungarian physicist, Paul Selenyi, who was experimenting with electrostatic images, Carlson began experimenting in his crude laboratory in the kitchen of his apartment in Jackson Heights, Queens.

By October 1937 Carlson had filed a preliminary patent application for the basic principles of what he called "electrophotography" (later xerography). "I knew," he said, "that I had a very big idea by the tail, but could I tame it?" He still had to demonstrate his theory experimentally.

Periodically Carlson's experiments in the kitchen would go awry and send fumes throughout the house ("My experiments became very unpopular around the house"). Encouraged by his wife Linda, Carlson set up a small laboratory in a house owned by her mother in Astoria, Long Island (marked today by a bronze plaque). This was not an easy period for Carlson: "At about this time, possibly due to the heavy schedule I was carrying, and the consequent physical strain, I developed arthritis of the spine. The constant pain and the specter of total disability contributed to making this period one of the most frustrating and discouraging of my life. In some ways, though, this situation also served as added inducement to produce a marketable invention."

Because Carlson had only evenings and weekends to develop his ideas he hired a young refugee from Nazi Germany, Otto Kornei, a physicist and engineer, to help him in the lab. Despite the small salary and tiny budget for materials, Kornei was grateful to have a job, and for the short time he was with Carlson his assistance proved invaluable and the two men worked well together.

Finally in October 1938, the breakthrough they had worked for occurred. Carlson describes what happened: "October 22, 1938, was an historic occasion. I went to the lab that day and Otto had a freshly-prepared sulfur coating on a zinc plate, We tried to see what we could to toward making a visible image. Otto took a glass microscope slide and printed on it in India ink the notation '10-22-38 ASTORIA.

"We pulled down the shade as dark as possible, then he rubbed the sulfur surface vigorously with a handkerchief to apply an electrostatic charge, laid the slide on the surface and placed the combination under a bright incandescent lamp for a few seconds. The slide was then removed and lycopodium powder sprinkled on the sulfur surface. By gently blowing on the surface, all the loose powder was removed and there was left on the surface a near-perfect duplicate in powder of the notation which had been printed on the glass slide.

"Both of us repeated the experiment several times to convince ourselves that it was true, then we made some permanent copies by transferring the powder images to wax paper and heating the sheets to melt the wax. Then we went out to lunch to celebrate."

By November 1940, Carlson had been issued a patent for his invention, which guaranteed him 17 years of patent protection.

In many ways what Carlson had achieved up to this point was the easy part, for now he had to find a company interested in developing his new product. Between 1939 and 1944, he approached approximately 20 companies including IBM, RCA, and Kodak. "The years went by without a serious nibble....I became discouraged and several times decided to drop the idea completely. But each time I returned to try again. I was thoroughly convinced that this invention was too promising to be dormant." Added to this his arthritis was still troubling him and a couple of years later in 1945 his wife would sue for divorce partly as a result of the privations she suffered from his single-minded devotion to his invention.

At last a chance encounter at work (he was now head of the patent department) with a representative of the Battelle Memorial Institute of Columbus, Ohio, a private research institute, provided the break he so desperately needed. Russel Dayton had come to Carlson's office to discuss some patent applications, an as was often the case Carlson mentioned his invention. After examining the somewhat crude and blurred copies Carlson had, Dayton felt the Battelle might be interested in developing this process. Indeed, much to Carlson's delight, they finally agreed to appropriate $3000 for research and development. Carlson as patent owner was guaranteed 25% of all profits and royalties. Another agreement made at the time and which would later prove to be worth millions to Carlson was that if within 5 years he could refund the costs Battelle expended in this development, Carlso would by such a payment increase his share of royalties to 40%. Before the 5 years elapsed Carlson did repay the development costs of $17000. Having recently been remarried to the former Dorris Hudgins, Carlson was able to supplement what he had saved from his job by borrowing from his wife's relatives. Carlson's new wife was "...a tall, beautiful woman whose soft, southern speech, profound religious convictions, and philosophic views perfectly complimented Chet's [Carlson's nickname] quiet character."

A year later Joe Wilson, the president of a company called Haloid (which produced photographic paper and would later be known as Xerox), noticed an article in an engineering journal about Carlson's process. Intrigued because it had photography in its name (it was still called electrophotography at this time) and looking for new avenues to expand, he decided to make some preliminary investigations. The upshot was that in 1947 Battelle and Haloid signed an agreement in which they would jointly develop and finance this new process. It was at this time that both parties agreed that "electrophotography" was too cumbersome. Battelle approached an Ohio State classical language professor who suggested the term "xerography", which was a combination of two Greek words: "xerox" (dry) and "graphos" (writing", literally meaning "dry writing".

On October 22nd, 1948, exactly ten years to the day after Carlson and Kornei made their breakthrough, the process was first publicly announced and was demonstrated by Battelle and Haloid at the annual Optical Society of America meeting in Detroit. In 1949 Haloid introduced its first manual xerographic machine, the Model A Xerox (nicknamed the 'Ox Box').

So what was the big deal about xerography, since there were other copying processes at the time which were more advanced technically? Quite simply xerography was the first process that was able to copy documents through a *dry* process (i.e., involving no chemical reactions), it could copy on to plain untreated paper, and it used a fairly standard light source.

By 1959 Haloid had changed its name to Haloid Xerox, it had acquired the major development rights from Battelle, and for the past ten years it had poured a dangerously large amount of its capital into the research and development of xerography. In September of that year they announced the introduction of their first office copy machine called the **914 Copier**. The 914 Copier at the push of a button produced 7 copies a minute. It was a phenomenal success, and marks the point at which the era of mass copying truly began. **FORTUNE** magazine called the 914 "the most successful product ever marketed in America." It launched the Xerox Corporation (the final name change came in 1961) into the multinational company it is today, And it also launched Carlson on his way to earning a fortune that was estimated to have been about $150 million.

During the 1950's Carlson's economic pressures had been slightly alleviated with the discovery by Xerox that their first xerox copier (the Model A) was the ideal machine for making paper master plates for offset duplicating. Quite by accident they stumbled into a new market. It was around this period that people began to notice some changes in Carlson.

"It is difficult to determine just when a curious change began to manifest itself in Chet. It crept into our awareness so subtly that though nobody could pinpoint its start, everybody sensed it. He still came to regularly to the Haloid plant. He still attended many conferences. But at home he began to give more time to reading, to talking with Dorris about things other than xerography, to taking long walks with his dog. A number of Haloid people visited the Carlsons frequently, and one of them told me, 'We spent all last evening talking, of all things, about psychical research and the occult. Chet and Dorris are steeped in it.'" Others wondered why their house was filled with incense, or that Carlson's primary interests seemed now to revolve around peace and goodwill in the world, and yet others speculated that Dorris had introduced Carlson to Zen Buddhism.

Indeed, it was this last speculation that was correct. They used to have regular Tuesday evening meditation sessions with a small group of friends, which lasted anywhere from one to two hours, or as long as the guests stayed. Dorris appears to have been the guiding spirit of the evenings. Dessauer recounts: "Dorris Carlson, tall, dignified, dark of hair, serene, sat on a hassock. She wore a long beautiful gown. Impassive and silent, her beautiful face vague in the shadows, she offered her visitors no entertainment, no conversation. She provided only the cushions, the pervasive odor of incense, and peace."

These were immensely happy years for Carlson (despite his worsening arthritis). He was free to live exactly as he wanted and he did. Simultaneously Carlson's thoughts turned to more general ideas of human freedom and this he maintained could only be realized in a world free from war. Military force was the antithesis of personal freedom. It was with such thoughts that he actively began giving away huge amounts of his money to a variety of organizations, most of which were dedicated in some way to promoting peace, concerned with health, or committed to alleviating human suffering.

"Chet and I," Mrs. Carlson explained, "found greater satisfaction in giving his wealth to worthwhile causes than he would have found in any other use of it." His generosity brought with it many citations, medals, and titles, all of which he would quietly slip into his desk drawer.

Unspoiled by his newfound wealth (royalties for 1964 were over $3 million), Carlson would now spend hours each day going over the requests for money that poured in. Philanthropy became his major preoccupation. In common with his shy and retiring nature, Carlson made many of his philanthropic gifts anonymously, insisting that donors ought to remain as far in the background as possible.

In his will Carlson left the major portion of his fortune to sixteen institutions, most of them universities (including his alma mater CalTech as well as the United Nations). He left lesser amounts to many other recipients. It also transpired that Carlson had been for five years the major donor to the Center for the Study of Democratic Institution. Some other bequests took the lawyers by surprise, as he left money for extrasensory and psychical research as well as to Buddhist organizations,

On September 19th, 1968, Carlson was in New York having attended a philanthropic meeting. He had a couple of hours to kill before meeting Dorris, and although he rarely went to films, he happened to notice a film in the Festival Theater that had been recommended to him by friends. He went in to see it.

The film ended, the lights came up and an usher thinking Carlson had fallen asleep, tried to wake him. But it was too late, for at some point during the film Carlson had died of a heart attack. He was 62 years old.

At his memorial service a couple of days later in Rochester, attended by friends, colleagues, scientists and philanthropic beneficiaries, and a group of buddhist monks, U Thant (Secretary General of the UN, whom Carlson had befriended some years before) read the following eulogy: "To know Chester Carlson was to like him, to love him and respect him, He was generally known as the inventor of xerography, and although it was an extraordinary achievement in the technological and scientific field, I respected him more as a man of exceptional moral stature and a humanist. His concern for the future of the human situation was genuine, and his dedication to the principles of the United Nations was profound. He belonged to that rare breed of leaders who generate in our hearts faith in man and hope for the future."

The film Chester Carlson was watching when he died was called "He Who Rides a Tiger," directed by an Englishman, Charles Crichton (who later directed "A Fish Called Wanda"). The title is one half of an Indian proverb that reads, "He who rides a tiger can never dismount."

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(most of the quotes are from Dinsdale and Dessauer)

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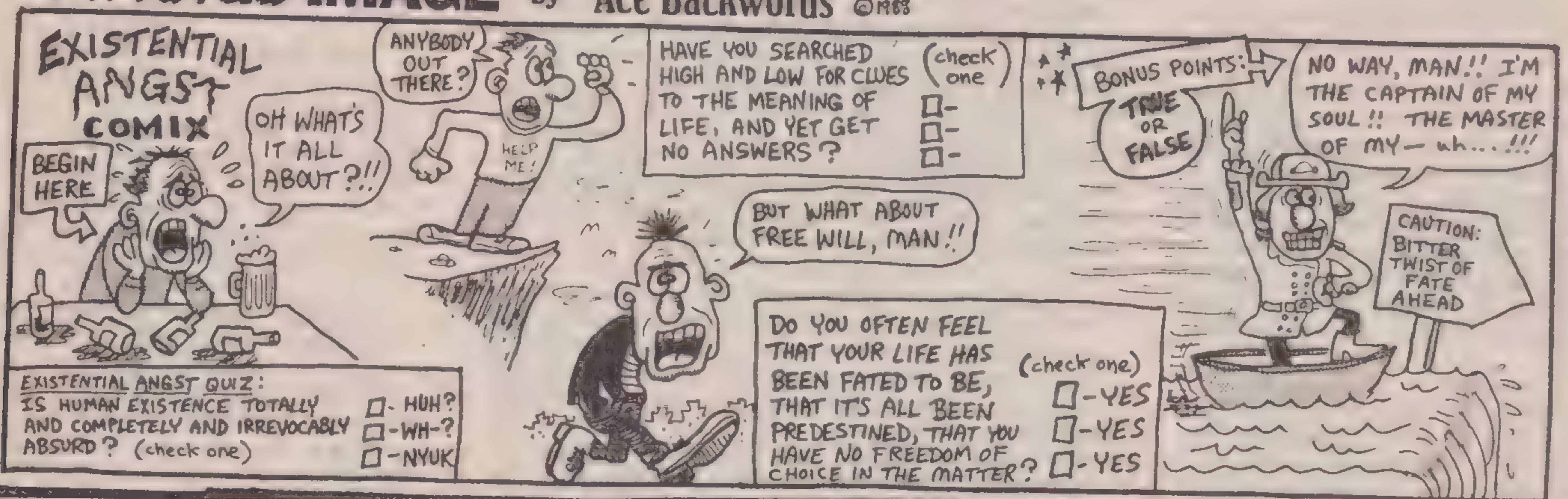
EXISTENTIAL ANGST COMIX
BEGIN HERE
OH WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?!!
ANYBODY OUT THERE?
HELP ME!
HAVE YOU SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW FOR CLUES TO THE MEANING OF LIFE, AND YET GET NO ANSWERS? (check one) ☐- ☐- ☐-
BONUS POINTS: TRUE OR FALSE
NO WAY, MAN!! I'M THE CAPTAIN OF MY SOUL!! THE MASTER OF MY— uh...!!!
BUT WHAT ABOUT FREE WILL, MAN!!
CAUTION: BITTER TWIST OF FATE AHEAD
EXISTENTIAL ANGST QUIZ: IS HUMAN EXISTENCE TOTALLY AND COMPLETELY AND IRREVOCABLY ABSURD? (check one) ☐- HUH? ☐-WH-? ☐-NYUK
DO YOU OFTEN FEEL THAT YOUR LIFE HAS BEEN FATED TO BE, THAT IT'S ALL BEEN PREDESTINED, THAT YOU HAVE NO FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN THE MATTER? (check one) ☐-YES ☐-YES ☐-YES

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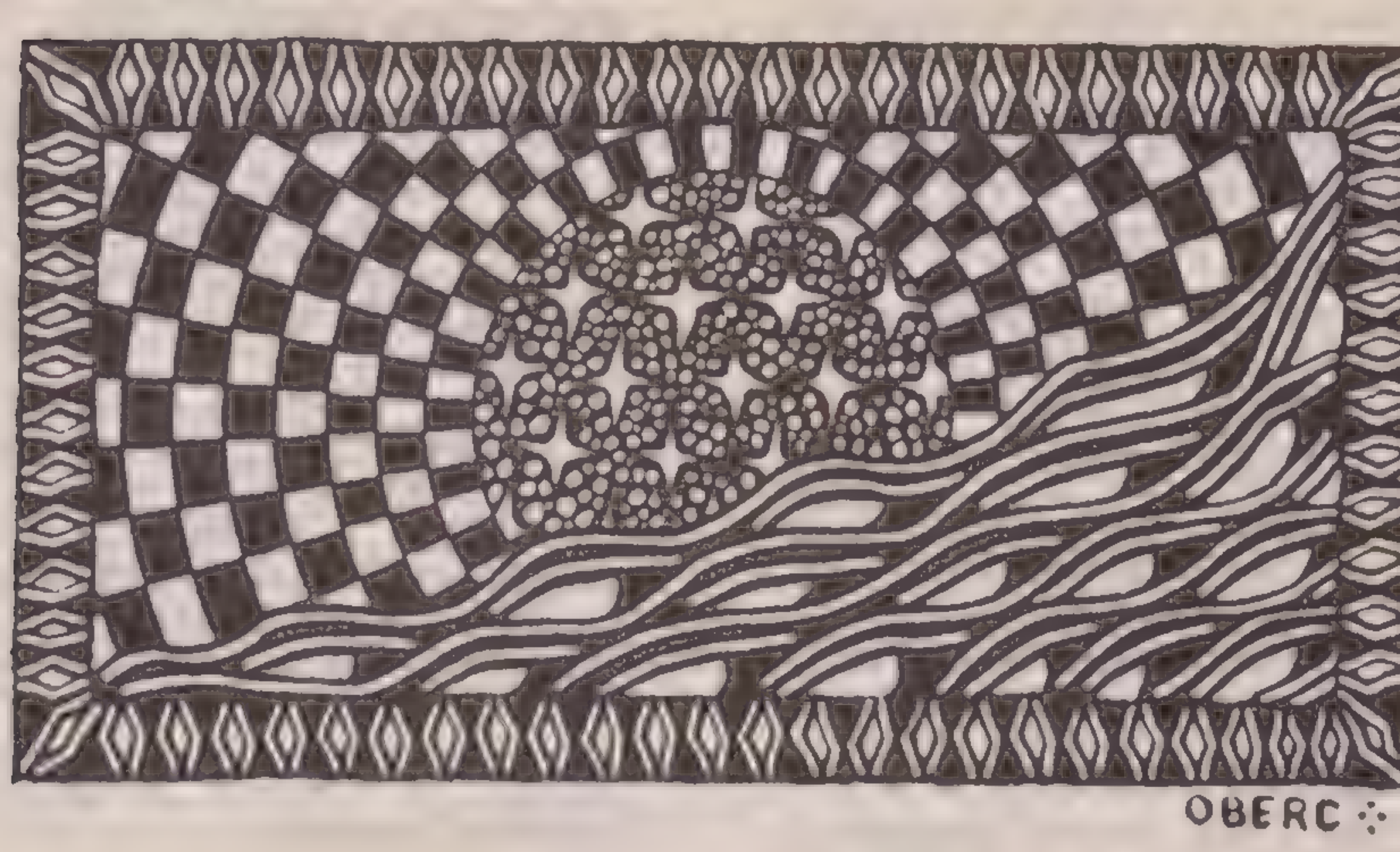
POETRY



★★★★★

Poetry reviews are by either P.J. Bellomo (pj) or the Aeditor (MG).

★★★★★

AILERON Vol. IX #2 ($3 from PO Box 891, Austin, TX 78767): "A Literary Journal" of well-presented poetry on heavy textured stock that lends an appropriate air of value. With about 40 poets here it's dangerous to pick out a few, but I really enjoyed John D. Cutaia's "American Diary", which uses a blend of post-sixties angst, Native American history and Biblical references to paint a crosstemporal picture of an empire in bad shape. Thomas Padlo's "Screens" manages to capture the images from Chinese screen paintings in a series of deft vignettes. (D-52r) (MG)

★★★★★

ALABAMA DOGSHOE MOUSTACHE #4 (45¢ & a stamp from dbqp, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305): A collection of short experimental poems in a machine-sewn booklet. The senses run rife here, with editor Ge(of) Huth and John Bennett working on sight, Bob Grumman addressing hearing, and Brendan Donegan taste, among other bits. Crystalline sensations. (MM-16) (MG)

★★★★★

Pir Fez Hafez al-Dajjal, **LOUIE LOUIE** ($2 from Verlag Golem, PO Box 3414, Providence, RI 02906): "A homosexual science-fiction epic poem and map of the world", complete with an introduction claiming to have discovered the key to postmodern literature that is actually quite charming in an academic fashion. The poem itself is a wild shapechanging dash through multiple bodies, from werewolf to angel, of a protagonist who is confused both sexually and ontologically. Hard to follow but fun to try. (D-23t) (MG)

★★★★★

ALPHA BEAT SOUP 4 ($3 from 5110 Adam St., Montreal, P.Q. H1V 1W8 CANADA): As you might imagine from the title, there's a certain beatnik slant to this one. The editor's managed to pull together some great stuff. Can't help but laud Joanne Marinelli's efforts again. How's this for striking: "you see my raw heart, split like perfect peach halves/bleeding nut milk..." Many names here are new to me, but they're obviously not new writers. (HL-62) (pj)

★★★★★

ATTICUS REVIEW #16 ($3 from 720 Heber Ave, Calexico, CA 92231): A zine of poetry and graphics. Much of the poetry is visual. The visual poems include e.e. cummings-type contributions as well as more complex works like those by G. Huth. In the more classical realm, I was impressed by the excerpt from Janet Gray's "The Purse," which poetically details a cure for impotence that is likely to rile priests and put sex therapists out of work. (S-40) (pj)

★★★★★

BALL PEEN #1 ($4 from David Roskos, 150 Paterson St. #1, New Brunswick, NJ 08901): An interim zine between issues of **BIG HAMMER**. This issue leads off with a strong work from Enid Dame, tracing the decline but not disappearance of revolutionary ideas the last few decades. Later on there's an interesting dialog in poems between the string-taut tense Antler and the more reflective but appreciative Stuart Ross. (S-50) (MG)

★★★★★

BELLOWING ARK Vol. 5 #1-2 ($2 from PO Box 45637, Seattle, Washington 98145): This literature tabloid continues to impress me, despite the seemingly elitist tendencies which surface in the biographical sketches. In addition to publishing well-polished work from all-over, it seems the editors are assuming an activist role in the US Northwest poetry scene, organizing a series of readings and putting out a special "local" issue as #2, spotlighting the work of 13 Northwest poets and printing some editorial caution over the rush to support Rushdie. In #1 you can expect great work that ranges from Ken Tokuno's light and funny "Onomatopopper" to David Starkey's thought-provoking "Tree Logic." (T-20) (pj)

★★★★★

John Bennett, **REGRESSION** ($2 from Luna Bisonte Prods, 137 Leland Ave., Columbus, OH 43214): Bennett has one of the clearest and most unique voices in poetry today, though it's not one that will soothe your maiden aunt. The poems in this chapbook seem to be mostly pathological, dealing even more closely than the usual Bennett fare with death and diseases. Or perhaps the regression is psychological and these horrid fantasies are stictly in his head along with the "loaf of bread like a/stone in my gut a little boy/peering from the shelf." A rush to madness. (D-8) (MG)

★★★★★

BIG HAMMER #1 ($5 from David Roskos, 150 Paterson St. #1, New Brunswick, NJ 08901): This collection includes some short stories but the poetry is clearly the focus so it's here. Lots of resistance to the system here, though some of it is a bit dated by reference to Reagan (not their fault; we were slow getting a copy). Joey Weil manages a great poem of young love, and David Cope rages believably in "Cab Driver's Blues". A bit sprawling, but there's plenty worth picking out from the pile. (S-92) (MG)

★★★★★

BLEAK DECEMBER #8 ($3 from Jim Dapkus, Route 1, Box 247, Westfield, WI 53964): A blast from the small press past, originally published in 1976, but Jim has come across a limited supply to sell. This is a booklet of verse in a fantastic horror vein, including many direct references to the Lovecraftian Cthulhu mythos. The selection was apparently quite careful, as there are delicious shudders on these pages. Of note were several familiar names, including Jessica Amanda Salmonson, Gary Gygax and Neal Willgus. (D-22t) (MG)

★★★★★

BLUE LIGHT REVIEW #11 ($4 from PO Box 1621, Pueblo, CO 81002): This small press poetry journal manages to collect fine works from little known poets across the U.S. Paul Dilsaver deserves credit for a keen editorial eye. Unfortunately, the printing of an excerpt from *Working Toward the Room*, Dilsaver's own novel, has resulted in a protest from BLR's razor tongued poetry critic, Eva. Respecting her position, I read and thoroughly enjoyed all but the excerpt, and encourage you to do the same. (HS-44) (pj)

★★★★★

BOGG #60 ($4 from 422 N. Cleveland St, Arlington, VA 22201): A 3 issue subscription is $10 and I would encourage anyone interested in contemporary poets with a traditional anglo-american style to spring for the sawbuck. Along with the likes of John Bennett there are names that are new to me, such as Joyce Odam ("Busy Mornings Give us Time to Hide") and Ron Androla, a featured poet in this issue. In addition, there are reviews, letters (always lively), and even an interview, the common denominator being the fact that each piece of writing is a quality finished product. (D-60) (pj)

★★★★★

BONESAUCE #6 ($1 plus stamp from 1250 Tutwiler #2, Memphis, TN 38107): Despite some real crappy work in places, this one continues to hold my interest. It's either the relentless collage of cut and paste graphics, or blind faith that someone like T. House, L. Cramer, or Q. Falkner will break the mediocrity. One interesting nuance with this mag: the editor insists that contributors allow printing of a mailing address so the public can have access to a direct line of communication. (HL-32) (pj)

★★★★★

BRISTLECONE #3 ($3 from WNCC, 2201 W. Nye Ln., Carson City, NV 89703): Despite its home at Western Nevada Community College there's no particular Western flavor here. Many of the poems deal with the age-old vagaries of relationships, often ending on a wistful note of surprise as the narrators plumb depths never seen before; the editors seem partial to this thought. There are of course other subjects, as well as strange little short stories, but it's that feeling that seems to hold the whole together. (D-48t) (MG)

★★★★★

CLEAR #1 (SASE from Carol Schneck, PO Box 6013, East Lansing, MI 48823): This broadsheet consists of a single poem called "giving you a piece of my mind." Rush for a stamp and an envelope because this is powerful stuff. Carol writes of an old junkie, shoulda-been-lover, friend who cut himself off from his old life. There's a memory that aches "like the bruise on my arm that lasted for weeks." Send us more Carol. (S-2) (pj)

★★★★★

Richard S. Danbury III (ed.), **DAN RIVER ANTHOLOGY, 1988** ($9.95 from Conservatory of American Letters, PO Box 123, South Thomaston, ME 04858): The fifth of an ongoing series, with a dozen or so short stories scattered among the poems. Most of what's here is fairly traditional in mood and construction, aiming to describe and possibly delight rather than to annoy and challenge. Glimpses of life and love and land, rendered by many voices from across the country. (140pp. pb) (MG)

★★★★★

George Dechant, **ONLY THE CHILDREN ARE INNOCENT** (75¢ from Mutated Viruses Publishing, 1094 W. Pratt Blvd. #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Love poems, though very oblique and private ones. Dechant tiptoes gently through memories and images, putting together halting poems that seem not quite to come to grips with their subjects. Comes in a ziploc bag with various trinkets — an odd presentation. (HS-20t) (MG)

★★★★★

Wendy Deeley and William Lengeman, **LONG KNIVES A SCRATCHIN'** ($1.50 from Bill Lengeman, 193 S. Railroad St., Hummelstown, PA 17036): A crazy-quilt look at a world gone mad, with incidents and images tumbling down on the reader like a shattered stained glass window. "...a saccharine smile/sealing wax suffering/agony to be borne/enroll oneself heartily/immediate extinction/doctrine by destruction..." is a fairly typical passage. (D-40) (MG)

★★★★★

DREAMS AND NIGHTMARES 26 ($8/12 issues from David Kopaska- Merkel, 740 River St, Troy, NY 12180): Unlike earlier issues, the works in this one were not quite so fantasy-oriented; nonetheless, nightmarish they were, and many a poem leaves the reader with a not-so-pleasant feeling. Consistently good. A sample issue is available for 70 cents in US stamps. (HS-19) (pj)

★★★★★

Kay Duro, **MY MOM'S POEMS** (Stamps/cash donation from Oyster Publications, 723 N. Highland Ave., Arlington Hts., IL 60004): Kay really is the mom of publisher Lainie, and a reading discloses similarity of style. But in addition to the gentle glimpses of life, there's an almost undefinable air of maturity here, manifested by a certain distance between poet and subject — as if to say "I observe but no longer participate". Topics are mainly emotional, love and life stuff, with a strong foundation of survival. (D-20t) (MG)

★★★★★

John Eberly, **NIRVANA NOW** (SASE from Mad Dog Press, PO Box 47, Youngwood, PA 15697): A broadsheet with a curious esoteric illustrated background which unfortunately makes reading a tad difficult. The subject is a modern mystical coupling, fueled by rock and roll but maintaining an almost reverent attitude towards the sexual longings involved. (L-1) (MG)

★★★★★

Sharon Eiker, **DIE BEFORE YOU DIE** ($5 cash/Postal MO from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): Eiker's poetic voice is like a scalpel, slicing away layers of illusion to reveal a cold core of life within. It's not, for the most part, a very pretty picture; there is a substantial amount of anguish bottled up in these poems, ghetto life, warped sexuality, lack of hope. But there's also a quiet strength that refuses to be ground down to nothing, which lends enough of itself to the reader to keep one going through the book. (D-68t) (MG)

★★★★★

C. Evans, **YOU ALWAYS KILL THE ONE YOU LOVE** (Stamps/cash donation from Oyster Publications, 723 N. Highland Ave., Arlington Hts., IL 60004): Really downer stuff about failed relationships and reasons to go nuts and being stuck n poverty. Along the way the poet makes some snide observations about the state of poetry as well. Definitely not hearts and flowers stuff. (D-28) (MG)

★★★★★

FELL SWOOP #14/15 ($4 from X.J. Dailey, 1521 N. Lopez, New Orleans, LA 70119): A special double "Big Horror Reader" issue, or as Richard Martin puts it in one of his poems "And the shit goes down in the streets/the endless shit/in the endless streets of the world". Lots of bleak stuff from people who refuse to believe that poets should shut up about all the shocking nonsense in the world. Politics plays big here, as does futility and general grumpiness. (S-42) (MG)

★★★★★

FELT (50¢ from William Dockery, 2108 15th Ave., Phenix City, AL 36807): A mini of poetry that's rather dark, for the most part. With Dockery typing everything in all caps and without titles, it's tough to tell how many poems there are here, but they share downer imagery and the lack of definite conclusions. (M-8) (MG)

★★★★★

FLIBBERTIGIBBET ($2 from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): A collection of works by Carl Bettis, Sharon Eiker, and Bruce Hansen. Eiker steals the show with her "Cradle Song for my Son" and "Those Pain-Filled Eyes", a pair of bleak, dark pieces of a world gone mad and dragging people down with it. Carl's short "Tanka" seems to give some hope back, at least that the world will survive even if we don't. (HL-22t) (MG)

★★★★★

FREE LUNCH #1 (Free to "serious American poets" [submit work if you're not well-known] or $4 for others from PO Box 7647, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): A new poetry zine trying to set itself up as the place for poets to keep tabs on what other poets are up to. The first issue includes work from Jack Ridl, Lin Lifshin, Neal Bowers, Billy Collins and half a dozen others, in a variety of styles that cover most of the map (with the exception of experimental gross-out work). (D-36t) (MG)

★★★★★

Eddie Fukui, **1984** ($1 from 1901 Bluffhill Drive, Monterey Park, CA 91754): This is a chapbook of dark, introspective poems, many of which are not typed but lettered in the author's own hand. There's bursts of creativity and craft, yet the better part is a lackluster, totally unenjoyable brand of depression. Could have used a rewrite at the very least. (HL-24) (pj)

★★★★★

GENTLE WILLOW #2-4 (SASE from Norma Lee Edwards, 220 Locust Street, Reading, PA 19604): A series of broadsheets which, as far as I can discern, feature the editor, Norma, as the only poet. The most striking feature about Norma's work is her incessant wit. In addition, the occasional use of rhyme and meter blends well with her sarcastic style. If nothing else, the indictment on attitudes regarding the word *poetess* in #2 is a must read. (S-1) (pj)

★★★★★

Roxy Gordon, **CRAZY HORSE NEVER DIED** ($3.50 from Paperbacks Plus Press, 108 E. Davis, Mesquite, TX 75149): The lyrics to an album that Roxy released through London's Sunstorm Records. As with most of his work, this has a Native American tone about it (though there are songs that make good C&W without any reference to Indians), with some of the pieces being especially straightforward indictments of the system, particularly "An Open Letter to Illegal Aliens". Roxy provides a short intro to each piece, which is kind of neat in itself. (D-24) (MG)

★★★★★

THE GREEN GOAT #1 (SASE from R.J. Neubauer, PO Box 209, Old Chatham, NY 12136): A no-frills batch of poems, most by Neubauer, with a few from Amanda Russell tucked away on the last page. Neubauer goes for the short blurt, the single thought, the simple situation described simply (but sometimes elusively). No great pearls of wisdom here, just glimpses of a life that's changing faster than it can be chronicled. (S-4) (MG)

★★★★★

Lee Groban, **HIGHER THAN THE GROUND** ($2 (?) from PO Box 268475, Chicago, IL 60626): Groban calls this a collection of "poems and artworks". The latter somewhat resemble the psychotic works of AC Samish. The former...well, think of the worst, most endless prose you ever had to sit through. This stuff is more monotonous, particularly the selections from his 4080-page poem "The Cure for Insomnia", which has been made into an 85-hour movie. The City of Chicago and the State of Illinois supported part of this work. I'm glad I don't pay taxes there. There may be a point to this stream of wordplay, but I can't find it. (D-48t) (MG)

★★★★★

Dennis Gulling, **WRECKAGE** ($2 (?) from 826 N. First St, Rockford, IL 61107): This chapbook of 13 poems is #38 in the Road House Series edited by Todd Moore. Somewhat similar to Moore's work, Gulling's poetry tends to sketch graphic interpersonal scenes indicative of a declining empire; rare is the poem that does not involve murder or some other form of violence. Though hardly timeless, this grotesque poetry surely has the potential for mass appeal, perhaps among the tabloid followers. (HS-16) (pj)

★★★★★

GYPSY 6/7,10 ($6.50, $5 from Belinda Subraman, HHB 2-3 ADA, Box 283, APO, NY 09110): The 6/7 issue is a fat healthy beast, with enough poetry, fiction, and graphics to last through the rainiest of days. I'm just guessing, but it seems that for #10 the editor requested poems/letters from poets regarding one day in their life: specifically, 1 August 1988. Whatever the impetus for the issue, it's a blast, including the note from our friend Clifton the Bull. (S-92,48) (pj)

★★★★★

Michael Hathaway, **EXCERPT** ($1 from Mutated Viruses Press, 1094 W. Pratt #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Pretty raw poetry from a man who writes in the voice of eternal protest and rebellion — especially true of the strong anti-hunting/animal rights works here. There are also various other indictments of the human being, and appreciations of cats. The book culminates with "1987" — a work which puts the final cap on his poetry career by giving up the fight against the mainstream poetry harpies. (D-39t) (MG)

★★★★★

HUG THE EARTH ($4 from Hug The Earth Publications, 42 Greenwood Ave., Pequannock, NJ 07440): A journal of (mostly) poetry focused on the environment and our relationship with it. Most of the works here try to express a feeling of connection or (in two senses) groundedness; many of them succeed. The tone is somewhere between wistful and worried, with beads of hope around the edges. (S-24t) (MG)

★★★★★

K.A. Keefe, **PROFESSIONAL DRIVER** ($1 from Plutonium Press, PO Box 61564, Phoenix, AZ 85082): Short blunt angry poems centering around sex, death, and cars. In this mini the car ultimately becomes a metaphor for broken relationships and unfaithfulness, while Keefe's poems are the sort of lines thrown, with a lit cigarette, at the disappointing lover. Sharp and to the point. (M-16t) (MG)

★★★★★

Arthur Winfield Knight, **WANTED!** ($4 from Trout Creek Press, 5976 Billings Road, Parkdale, OR 97041): Prosaic poetry lauding the lives of legendary old-west heroes such as Jesse James and Doc Holliday. There's a mix of what seem Hollywood versions and historical versions; likewise, there's a mix of shallow and truly poetic accounts. Most pieces are written as if the Legend was speaking the poem, and this style is at its best in "Belle Starr: Ambushed." (HL-21) (pj)

★★★★★

Susan Lapper, **NIGHT AND FOG** ($1 from Dancing Fish Press, 2-381 Roncesvalles Ave., Toronto, ONT M6R 2M8, CANADA): Short blasts of poetry and prose poems about, well, life. Oh, there's sex here, and maybe even some love, but mostly there are people alternately gliding over one another and then sandpapering one another's nerves. Susan has a straightforward style that transfers a lot of bleakness to the page, lending a shudder to life. (D-24t) (MG)

★★★★★

LIME GREEN BULLDOZERS AND OTHER RELATED SPECIES #9 (Cash/stamps donation from Oyster Publications, 723 N. Highland Ave., Arlington Hts., IL 6004): Lainie has collected an incredible number of poets here for a collaged presentation that rings a lot of changes. Dozens of folks contribute a poem or two each, many from the youthful edge of the poetry world — hope and love, despair and life, all mixed up together and laid quite quite bare for us to see. A very personal journal from a lot of interesting persons. (S-22t) (MG)

★★★★★

Joanne Marinelli, **LIKE FIRE** $1 (?)? from Dennis Gulling, 826 N. First St, Rockford, IL 61107): This is absolutely tremendous stuff. At times Joanne seems to write with anger in her pen, though it comes across as raw power rather than bitterness. "Why It Melts French Vanilla" was the first to really blow me away. Metaphors like "she was round and large like/a Tupperware full of potato salad," turn out to be icing on the cake. When you finish "Kathar" you'll be hastily inquiring about Joanne's next book. (HS-12) (pj)

★★★★★

Richard Martin, **BETWEEN THE EYES** ($3 from X.J. Dailey, 1521 N. Lopez, New Orleans, LA 70119): Lots of deeply affecting works here, notably "A Terrible Dream of Words", about the suppression of poets by society — scary stuff. Martin has a strong voice that sees into alternate universes of horror and brings that horror back to us — where it illuminates the seedier side of our own universe. (D-20) (MG)

★★★★★

THE MOMENT #9 ($2 from 22704 Ventura Blvd, Woodland Hills, CA 91364): Something about the way the graphics are layed-out in this one that gives the whole zine a little extra zip. And although there's some good written work in places, it's the graphics that consumed my time. As an example, I'd point to an absolutely fabulous sketch by Alec McTurk, which I couldn't even begin to describe. (S-27) (pj)

★★★★★

MUDMAN ($1 from 7873 Heritage Dr. #622, Annandale, VA 22003): Judging by the agressive scrawls here, the editor is barely holding his vicious impulses in check — and the cathartic poetry (interspersed with short prose pieces) tends to confirm this. Lots of evil looks at the world, sex and violence, and icky situations. (D-16) (MG)

★★★★★

MUTATED VIRUSES #9 (Cash/stamps donation from Angi, 1094 W. Pratt Blvd. #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): The most distinctive thing about this zine is that the contributors are not identified until the end — leaving the poems to stand on their own merits. Fortunately many of them do, notably Brenda Corbett's "A Whine at a Swine" and Pete's "Aunt Margie". Crisp youthful work predominates, accentuated by the clean but not dull layout. (D-36t) (MG)

★★★★★

MYSTERIOUS VISIONS ANTHOLOGY 25 (50¢ from Dimestore Stories Productions, PO Box 360922, Strongsville, OH 44136): Rhymed poetry from Ian Shires. This is probably intended to evoke images of prophetic fantasy, or at least mild philosophical introspection. Instead, the forced and banal rhyme schemes evoke nothing but drowsiness. And Jason Whitley's interesting sketches could only succeed in conjuring-up mysterious visions in a totally different environment. (M-8) (pj)

★★★★★

Nekro XP, **EN SAMLING** (Contact Requiem, Jens Bjelkesgt 62c, 0652 Oslo 6, NORWAY): This is poetry. It is in Norwegian. There are not even enough cognate roots with English to guess what the poems are about. If you read Norwegian and like poetry, I suppose you should check this out. (A5-36) (MG)

★★★★★

R.J. Neubauer, **UNBUTTONING THE SCREW** and **COTTONTAIL** (2 stamps from PO Box 209, Old Chatham, NY 12136): Both these chapbooks consist of short and simple rhymed poetry, all with a meter that shows on a whim. Though not really introspective, the poems implicitly or explicitly reference the author, as in "Sour Grapes": "we used to be the best of friends./We shared alot./I kept up my end of the deal/but I think you forgot." The themes vary somewhat, but this example gives an accurate flavor of the remaining work. (HS-24) (pj)

★★★★★

NEXUS Vol. 24 #1 ($2 plus postage from 006 University Center, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435): First note that as Wright State's poetry mag this is free to any and all students — no they did not offer their definition of "student." Classy zine. Reviews, poems, and many graphics. Some especially impressive sketches, titled "The Japanese Series," by Jud Yalkut. There's a Far East theme in this one; and, at least to the non-expert, it seems to be handled with great care and conviction. (S-62) (pj)

★★★★★

B.Z. Niditch, **ON THE EVE** ($4 from New Hope International, 20 Werneth Ave., Gee Cross, Hyde, Cheshire, SK14 5NL, UK): A summing up of a poetic career that spans decades and continents. The first poems in this collection are timeless stories, school days and birthdays. Farther on, though, the anchor of history appears, with reflections on many events in Eastern Europe — Auschwitz, German culture, Stalin's death and Pasternak's. Dense with thickets of meaning, these are not poems to be casually scanned, but to be savored and appreciated. (A5-28) (MG)

★★★★★

NOON BLUE APPLES #5 ($1 from 2080 E. Greenway, Tempe, AZ 85282): A broadsheet containing numerous poems dedicated to someone named "Elisabeth." It appears author and publisher Eric Wagner had an urge to rant a bit, with a fair amount directed affectionately toward Lis. Most of this is simply uninhibited, incongruent sarcasm. Good for some smiles. (S-6) (pj)

★★★★★

Vincent Obregon, **URBAN GLYPHICS** (50¢ from Mutated Viruses, 1094 W. Pratt Blvd. #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Poetry that reminds me of nightmares of demented medical students, jack the ripper murders, and the like. Obregon is at his most effective when he combines biology and technology to arrive at modern images of horror, of nature overrunning a cleancut shiny world: "Inside my house,/the torrid bacteria oozes/across the floor as the telephone cries/that mother is dying..." Nightmares for a modern age. (D-24t) (MG)

★★★★★

Koryne Ortega, **PROUD ONES** ($3 (?) from Esoterica Press, PO Box 170, Barstow, CA 92312-0170): An overall terseness and a cultural difference — Ortega's is the voice of the Mexican-American subculture, ignored by the mainstream — this is a tough book to penetrate. Gradually, though, the economy of expression begins to seem natural and Ortega's world becomes clearer, from initial struggles to find any hope through the birth of her daughter to realize it. A work far from the norms and worth pursuing. (D-46) (MG)

★★★★★

OVUNDUM Vol. 2 ($1 from Andy Takakjan, Box 5953, Huntington Beach, CA 92646): A poetry zine which "focuses on one author or artist" each issue. The first one, entitled "Orange," is comprised of poems by Gil Fuhrer. Succumbing to the temptation that ruins many a poet, Fuhrer taints this effort with poems about poetry. "A Bad Cup of Monday," a poem sketching the remorse of a stock market analyst, begins to show Gil's real potential. A second issue by Alexander Laurence ($2) was fantastic. Laurence has a real talent for description, one which fans of T.S. Eliot would surely enjoy. (HS-16) (pj)

★★★★★

Don Paul, **AMERIMODERN** ($2.50 from Hart's Spring Works, PO Box 33-0178, San Francisco, CA 94133): The beginning and end contain longer poems, with many 10-20 line pieces in the middle of this chapbook. It's the longer pieces that work best, Paul's style here demanding some time for development. The conclusion of "On the Floor" depicts a scene which is reminiscent (in an analogous sense) of the coal mine: "Working can get/Long, wearying, wearing:/Wearing beings brutally,/All close like beasts bound/To this working with iron for oil." Many different topics are addressed, though off-shore oil drilling surfaces more than once. Nice effort! (HS-75) (pj)

★★★★★

Don Paul, **JUST LIKE YOU** ($4 from Hart's Spring Works, PO Box 33-0178, San Francisco, CA 94133): A chapbook containing what the author refers to as "bits" along with the poems. These include graphics, a letter, a review, random editorials, and a provocative little chronology of events in Nicaragua since '79. "Mated" is representative of the poetry: "When a man and a woman love each other,/Mated,/He may realize the femininity in himself/Through her,/And she may have the male in herself/Fulfilled/Through him." Not only is the accuracy of the language questionable, the poem's altogether lifeless. The bits are better than the poetic pieces. (HS-73) (pj)

★★★★★

Shane Paul, **THE CRIPPLED** and **IN ONE Y(EAR) OUT THE OTHER** (Send stamps to Shane Paul, PO Box 14450, Phoenix, AZ 85063): A pair of chapbooks from Phoenix's premiere self-promoter. **THE CRIPPLED** is a stream-of-consciousness screed, gritty and depressing. The pieces in the other book are more traditionally structured (except that the majority have only numbers for titles), but still deal with the nasty side of life. Definitely not from the sweetness and light school of poetry. (D-16) (MG)

★★★★★

Tina Phillips, **THE TINA READER** ($1 (?) from PO Box 785, Charleston, IL 61920): A collection of poems by Tina, compiled by Rane Arroyo. Tina's imagery tends to be her strong point, expressing emotions in a private language which only gradually unfolds to the reader. Much of this selection concerns itself with building an identity independent of lovers and others: "until what's left/is frantic for itself,/for any small thing/familiar" she laments at one point. (S-8)

★★★★★

THE PLOWMAN #4-7 ($5 from Box 414, Whitby, Ontario, Canada L1N 5S4): This zine has made a significant change since its debut. Issue 4 was 86 pages of bound photocopies (and priced at $7.50, ha ha) while later issues came tabloid. Gone are the odes to strippers, replaced by more substantive work. Sure, there's a fair amount of drivel, but what a change. Nevertheless, there's great room for improvement in editorial skills, though this one might survive simply because someone's bankrolling it big time. #6 announced a whole stack of coming chapbooks (the strippers are back), and the review and classified sectionis also expanding fast. (T-56) (pj)

★★★★★

POETS FOR PEACE & JUSTICE 2nd Annual Reading ($5 cash/postal MO from Carl Bettis, PO Box 32631, Kansas City, MO 64111): This transcript of a reading opens with a manifesto challenging poets to be involved in the world rather than simply onlookers, and then presents the results of that involvement. The strongest voices here are Carl's own introspective one and Chuck Winstead's perceptive one — he captures the full spectrum of modern horrors with an economy of words. Other contributors include Sharon Eiker, Duane Miller, and Claudia Wagner. (S-52t) (MG)

★★★★★

THE POET'S REVIEW Vol. II #2-3 ($4 from 806 King's Row, London Village, Cohutta, GA 30710): These folks run monthly contests for subscriber-poets, with cash prizes and a twist: all subscribers can vote to determine the winners. Thus it functions as a sort of peer review system for new poets. The form and content tends to be fairly traditional — no heavy experimental stuff here — and reasonably well executed. (S-8t) (MG)

★★★★★

QUICK BROWN FOX #7 (SASE from PO Box 47, Youngwood, PA 15697): A poetry broadsheet which is free for those enclosing a SASE, unavailable, I assume, for those who don't. Despite great variety, it's the recognizable names that make this worthwhile: Bennett, Eberly, Oberc, and Berry. Wait! I almost forgot Elliot Richman's short burst "A Christmas Present For My Ex-Wife" — hate can be such a poetic emotion. (S-6) (pj)

★★★★★

RANSOM #5 ($3 from Alan Howard, PO Box 1386, Columbia, SC 29202-1386): A collection of short poems by a couple of dozen folks that fairly vibrates with the tension singing through the works. I was particularly captivated by the two entries from Joe Salerno, who combines the Eastern traditions with the rhythm of Western life to achieve at a spiritual synthesis in 8 lines or less. (D-28) (MG)

★★★★★

RHYSLING ANTHOLOGY 1988 ($2.50 from 2012 Pyle Rd, Schenectady, NY 12303): Often alluded to in **STAR LINE**, this is a yearly poetry anthology compiled by the Science Fiction Poetry Association. Apparently, members nominate work published in various science fiction zines, including SL, and through some democratic/editorial wizardry these nominations result in a yearly anthology. Awards are given for best long and short poems. There's too many good pieces to single anything out. I would anticipate that this has an audience outside of the SF scene. (HS-52) (pj)

★★★★★

Randall Schroth, **CAMELS OF THE VIEUX CARRE** ($3 from X.J. Dailey, 1521 N. Lopez, New Orleans, LA 70119): Poems of New Orleans expressed in terse crypticity. Schroth writes, for the most part, in unrhymed couplets, throwing images and emotions into a sometimes jumbled confusion. Order emerges out of the pile but slowly, as he's concerned to explore the contraditions as well as the clarities of life in this city. (D-22t)

★★★★★

SHARK ALERT ($.50 from Eric Keenan, 3740 Stalker Rd, Macedon, NY 14502): A chapbook of photocopied paste-up poems which are connected to sharks by some shallow romantic analogy. Although Eric's political direction is generally on course, his poetry ain't: "...I tried to reconstruct it/with a model and some paste/But it wouldn't go together/and my effort was for waste...." Trite, boring, not a dorsal fin in sight. (HS-20) (pj)

★★★★★

SICK ROOF #3 (SASE from Mumbles, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208): "A Journal of Humorous, Pathetic, and Serious Poetry", this one delivers a small but potent dose of carefully-chosen works. John Bennett, Paul Weinman, Mad Dog Shields and editor John Eberly are among these represented here. Keith Dodson also checks in with a plea for dirty panties instead of mass-market poems. (D-4r) (MG)

★★★★★

Ray Speen, **I GO TO VOMIT** (50¢ from Legal Hassle Publications, 1320 W. 116th St. #9, Cleveland, OH 44102): A coffeeshop poem from a not-very-good coffeeshop. Speen announces it as a "art pre-formance piece documentation thing", and it's basically bitching about the quality of the food, the help, and the world in general. Includes running footnotes on the poet's state of mind. (M-16) (MG)

★★★★★

STAR LINE Vol. 11 #5/6 ($8/yr from 2012 Pyle Rd, Schenectady, NY 12303): This is the Science Fiction Poetry Association's newsletter. I've seen this before but I don't remember being quite so impressed. There's numerous poems, reviews, an article, and a column called "Market Reports" which gives brief descriptions of various markets for writer's of science fiction poetry. For science fiction poetry fans, and especially for science fiction poets. (S-18) (pj)

★★★★★

STAR*LINE Vol. 12 #1 ($8 from Chuck and Susan Noe Rothman, 2012 Pyle Rd., Schenectady, NY 12303): A combination market newsletter and showcase for poetry with a science fiction slant — indeed, the official publication of the Science Fiction Poetry Association. In #1 it's Terry McGarry's "Do Not Disturb" which seems to strike the best balance between sense of wonder and craft of form. (S-10t) (MG)

★★★★★

Renato Trujillo, **THE PRICE OF FISH** ($3 from PO Box 5806, Station B, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3B 4T1): A creative chapbook of short poems and numerous primitive sketches. The graphics, in fact, dominate this work. Sometimes cartoon-like, always explicit, these pictures poke fun at our world, or a close facsimile thereof. Like the sketches, the poems deliver with a primitive irony. (HL-32) (pj)

★★★★★

VOID WHERE PROHIBITED #24 (Free from Kate Dusenbery, 921 N Maplewood, Peoria, IL 61606): This is an example of the Small Press base package: 3 single-sided photocopied sheets stapled in a corner. The last page was filled with short, explicit reviews of bands (from the alternative music arena) that the editor has seen in concert. Although I wasn't impressed with the poetry, I am impressed that this is issue #24. Such dedication deserves commendation, and a little help with postage. (S-3) (pj)

★★★★★

Paul Weinman, **GATHERING FISH** ($5.95 from Puckerbrush Press, 76 Main St., Orono, ME 04473): Those who only know Weinman from his underground "White Boy" poems are likely to be somewhat startled by this work. "A chapbook of narrative poems", it speaks in the voices of old Yankee fishermen, recounting tales from days gone by when life was harsh but predictable and the world had not yet spun off its tracks. A deeply affecting book. (D-32t) (MG)

★★★★★

Paul Weinman, **WHITE BOY'S A PUNK!** (50¢ from Mutated Viruses, 1094 W. Pratt Blvd. #1E, Chicago, IL 60626): Yes, White Boy *is* a punk, and this is the best introduction yet to his psychopathic exploits. This boy keeps getting in trouble for little things like investigating crack houses or beating up McDonalds clerks, and when called on it explains simply what he was up to. I find this stuff both hilarious and thoughtful — and there are reasons why Paul is becoming a mainstay of the underground press. (D-36t) (MG)

★★★★★

Paul Weinman, **WHITE BOY'S PITCH** ($2 from Samisdat, PO Box 129, Richford, VT 05476): A **SAMISDAT** chapbook featuring a mix of Paul's "White Boy" screeds and more serious works, all dealing with the great American spring pastime: baseball. They range from straight pitcher-catcher heart-to-hearts to the irrepressible Boy's attempts to solve the world's troubles by spreading the gospel of the game. (D-12t) (MG0

★★★★★

Richard Wilmarth, **BETWEEN GAMES** and **MINIMUM WAGE** ($2 (?) from 52 Rolens Dr. #A-3, Kingston, RI 02881-1718): A pair of chapbooks of poetry from the bottom side of life. Lousy jobs are one of the preoccupations here, along with the lousy state of the world. On the other hand Richard also writes sensitively of the love and people that keep him going, and throws in a few poems that are simple observations of the world at work. A rather self-effacing voice that still manages to say quite a bit. (D-27 & S-30) (MG)

★★★★★

Raffy Woolf and Phil Thomas, **RENT FREE** ($2 from Street Magazine Poetry Project, P.O. 441019, Somerville, MA 02144): If the second poem, "A Simple Pain," was the only poem, this chapbook would still be worth much more than they're asking. Both Woolf and Thomas are homeless. Nevertheless, with the help of this Street Mag Poetry Proj in the Boston area these two authors (Thomas adds some great sketches) have managed to reach out to us with some powerful poetic accounts of their experiences. Get yours today. (HL-32) (pj)

★★★★★

WORDSWORTH'S SOCKS ($5 from PO Box 2730, Long Beach, CA 90801): An anthology in three sections, each section edited by a different person. This one was marked Fall '88 — the editors are striving to publish twice a year. I see no purpose in comparing the editors' respective tastes; ultimately, each section abounds with strong, clear poetry. One critique: this whole production would have benefitted greatly with the addition of some more graphics. (HL-82) (pj)

★★★★★

Dave Zielinski, **HAPPY HOUR** ($1 from Salt Lick Press, 1804 East 38 1/2 Street, Austin, Texas 78722): Attention liberal English profs, critics, and nondescript lovers of Contemporary Lit. The Small Press has a potentially hot item. (I hope this ain't as embarrassing as the time I "discovered" Sylvia Plath.) Labelled a "Salt Lick Sampler," this micro intrigued me throughout its two chapters; if we're lucky these are part of a longer book. Written in the 1st person, this work foregoes plot and, for the most part, setting, to concentrate on the author's rambling thoughts and memories: the style is reminiscent of *Johnny Got His Gun*. The topics? Godzilla, breakfast cereal, sex, baseball, rent, etc. But what makes this special is the reader's experience of the author's mind. Zielinski is extremely talented. Don't miss this one. (MM-36t) (pj)

POETRY NOTES

•**FAST LITTLE SHOES** is a new chapbook of poems by Pamela Miller. Judging by the one poem on the flyer, these are strangely fantastic love poems, told in an oddly breathless voice. To find out for sure, send $3.75 to Pamela at 7538 N. Bell, Chicago, IL 60645.

•Ellen Levitt, small press publisher, has a "real" job at MacFadden Publications (215 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10019) and wants readers to know that "if they can write decent, light-hearted romantic poetry (rhyming preferred) they can contribute to **TRUE LOVE, MODERN ROMANCES**, or **TRUE CONFESSIONS**." Include SASE; selected poems get paid $30-$75.

•**SLIPSTREAM** (PO Box 2071, New Market Stn., Niagara Falls, NY 14301) is reading for their 3rd annual poetry chapbook contest. Send up to 40 pages along with $5 reading fee & SASE by December 1st. Winner gets 50 copies and early 1990 publication — all entrants get a copy of the winning chapbook.

•Unicorn Press (PO Box 3307, Greensboro, NC 27402) publishes a wide variety of unusual chapbooks, from translated 'pataphysical poems to Daniel Berrigan's prison poetry to a Vietnamese folk poetry anthology. Write for their catalog.

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References:

•**ABACUS #38** ($2.50), 181 Edgemont Ave., Elmwood, CT 06110.
•**AFTER THE END #7** ($?), GAPress, 912 Broadway Ave., Toronto, ONT M4K 2R1, CANADA.
•**AQUARIUM** ($1.50), BSP, PO Box 12268, Seattle, WA 98102.
•**ATTICUS REVIEW** ($12/yr), 720 Heber Ave., Calexico, CA 92231.
•**CAVE PAINTINGS** ($?), PhotoStatic, 911 N. Dodge St., Iowa City, IA 52245.
•**CENTRAL PARK #14** ($5) & **DELTA: A TRILOGY** ($12), The Segue Foundation, 303 E. 8th St., New York, NY 10009.
•**CULT COMIX #10** ($2.50), Mumbles, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 67208.
•**FLUXONYMS** ($3) & **VISCOSITY INDUCTION** ($3), RASP, PO Box 3621, Port Charlotte, FL 33949.
•**INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE #44** ($1) & **1CENT #215** (SASE), 1357 Lansdowne Ave., Toronto, ONT M6H 3Z9, CANADA.
•**MONDO HUNKAMOOGA** ($7/yr), PO Box 789, Stn. F, Toronto, ONT M4Y 2N7, CANADA.
•**NEARLY HURONIA** ($3), Polaris Press, PO Box 196, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522.
•**S.A.P.** ($?), Greg Evason, 912 Broadview Ave., Toronto, ONT M4K 2R1, CANADA.
•**SCORESHEETS** 17, 18, & 19 ($1/4), 491 Mandana Blvd., Oakland, CA 94610.
•**THE SUBTLE JOURNAL OF RAW COINAGE #16** ($2) and **#17** (10¢) & **A VOICE WITHOUT SIDES #2** ($2), dbqp, 225 State St. #451, Schenectady, NY 12305.
•**10.-22.-38 ASTORIA** ($6), ASFI HQ, 349 West St. N #3, Orillia, ONT L3V 5E1, CANADA.
•**TRULY FINE** ($1.25), PO Box 891, Bemidji, MN 56601.

Several months ago Greg Evason wrote a letter to the Toronto literary review, **MONDO HUNKAMOOGA. MONDO** editor Stuart Ross had unfavorably reviewed **S.A.P.**, a magazine devoted to otherstream typewriter poems that Evason had edited. All but two of its pieces, according to Ross, were "utter shit." Was he right?

Well, one of the pieces, a collaboration by Evason and Daniel f. Bradley, consists of maybe a hundred typewritten lines and line fragments which, by overprinting, have been squeezed over a surface a conventional typist would have put no more than thirty lines on. The result is something pretty much unreadable — although many words and phrases can be made out such as "simplicity of baseball" and "you got here." Surely it belongs near the over-complicated end of what I call the clarity continuum of art.

But it isn't completely opaque. For one thing, the fragment "lines/lined/lie", which leaks out of its main text, *can*, as Evason suggests in his letter, help one into the work. To a message, for instance, about "lines" which are "a lined/lie...." The piece also speaks of verbal language's going too far to "cover" a subject and ending in chaos, but at the same time creating a non-linguistic spectacle of interest: the visual design that emerges. In the end a new attempt at expression, perhaps a whole new language, begins at the very bottom of the work where an "a" drops out of the chaos above it...to start a new alphabet? Or merely to provide an indefinite article for the blank space that follows? In any event, this piece is not "utter shit." Neither, I would add, is it quite as accessible as I might prefer.

The recent **SCORESHEET 17** by jw curry, on the other hand, seems at first too close to the under-complicated end of the clarity continuum. Called "A mo(nu)ment for bpNichol (1944-1988)," it consists of the lowercase letters b and p drawn large (and in black) on a yellow piece of paper. Between them a letter b with part of its bottom cut off has been placed above but not quite touching a p with part of its top missing. The result is a sort of simultaneous "bp" with joining roundnesses inside it which bring to mind, and — in the sad circumstances — to heart, sunrises and sunsets. The thing might be super-clear, in other words, but it is not under-complicated. And the thoughts flow from the Stonehenge-Monumental large lettering of the piece through thoughts of life/death as sunrise/sunset as b/p.

Similarly simple-seeming but resonant is Jiri Valoch's homage to Nichol that appeared as the 215th issue of **1CENT**. It just consists of the following: "memORy."

Pieces like the ones I've just discussed — which seem at first glance either boringly under-complicated (like Cage's various silences) or boringly (and arbitrarily) over-complicated (like **FINNEGANS WAKE**) — are common in the magazines and books this column is about. So they are what I've decided to concentrate on in this edition of my column.

10.-22.-38 ASTORIA pretty much covers the clarity continuum. It is an excellent sampling of xeroxial art, mostly collagic, by such artists as Lloyd Dunn, Jurgen O. Olbrich, Epistolary Stud Farm, State of Being, Janet Janet, Joe Singer, and Malok, that was collected by Colin Hinz in honor of the 50th anniversary of Chester F. Carlson's invention of xerography (see Stephen Perkins's article in this issue of **FACTSHEET FIVE**). Among its pieces is a collage by the Finn, Arto Kytohonka, that looks especially artless. It superimposes a keypunch card, which is all row after row of slashes, on an ad-art image of an open-mouthed woman. it couldn't be more dull. But wait: just noticeable among the slashes are the scattered words: "VER/TAS," "/N" and "V/NO." With an old cliche about truth being in wine, all the piece's simplicity starts to flow away into considerations of how people are reduced for ease of replicability and distribution into objects like the woman in the xerox, and truth itself to trivial computer bits — and the world to the truth that is in the drink...

Most otherstream collages are more wildly scrambled than Kytohonka's, often making them seem fit categories for the overly obscure end of the clarity continuum. Generally, however, they prove to be what I call "medleyable"; that is, one can read them as medley's of disparate images. The best, however, are unifiable. The ones in Chris Winkler's **VISCOSITY INDUCTION**, for example, cohere both visually and thematically. Their visual unity consists primarily of the way dark and light areas balance, and shapes (corners, often) inter-reference with, and vary upon, each other. Their thematic unity has to do mainly, for me, with contrasts between the crass and the sublime — e.g., a scrap of a girlie video ad against what looks like a nightful of stars; also with similar contrasts of earthiness (the floozie in the ad) with high abstraction (the geometric patterns in the video ad collage; graphs and maps elsewhere).

Similarly effective, though also similarly impervious to quick understanding, is a collage in **AFTER THE END #7** by Daniel f. Bradley, It contains a fish looking up at what seem to me to be the bones of a finger, to the wrist, against a background of pieces of paper, some with mirror images of print on them. I can't yet say exactly why this isn't a willful bit of impenetrability, but I know it has something to do with what the piece is saying about archaeology, the theory of evolution, and intellectual progress and decay.

Winkler has another book out, **CAVE PAINTINGS**, which seems the reverse of **VISCOSITY INDUCTION** in complexity, for it consists of little toy people made out of letter sand other kinds of typographical symbols. But their being spelled rather than conventionally drawn diverts us into Klee-charming new appreciations of simple human actions like a bow-tied man's tipping his hat. So where **VISCOSITY INDUCTION** shows us incoherence clarifying, **CAVE PAINTINGS** shows us simplicity ramifying.

CENTRAL PARK #14 contains all kinds of fascinating pieces but one of them, an excerpt from Pierre Guyotat's **EDEN, EDEN, EDEN** (translated by Edouard Roditi), I want to mention as something too far to the Joycean end of the clarity continuum for me. It is crammed with sex and blood, and vivid imagery: "two vultures slide, tightly entwined, down the trunk of the eucalyptus tree, their beaks tearing its bark as they scatter their sperm on it until they fall on the ground in their own blood," is a randomly-chosen example. A medleyable text collage I would call it, but tiring in the same way a long series of unrelated high wire acts would be, however wonderful each is by itself.

I have to confess that some of the pieces in the Winter 1988 issue of **ATTICUS REVIEW** are beyond me; too. One, an untitled piece by Todd Mecklem and Jonathan Falk, begins, "Salve and cloverleaf jelly committed/zimbalist bird atrocities tongue-watering/haemmorhage wandering arbeit macht leben..." Now I by chance know that the German phrase means "work makes life," but what that has to do with the cloverleaf jelly and the rest of it, I haven't any idea. I thus see no point in the poem. I thus would want it "explained" to me — not necessarily narratively or intellectually but *somehow* — and as something more than an expression of the breakdown of language.

A similarly odd piece in the issue contains fragments of various-sized print by Mike Miskowski — but it works for me as (from one of many possible angles) a herky-jerk, funky mood that's conducting some guy on the street through girlying reveries of an "ude" and a scene in which an "ady tor bra."

The inaccessible-seeming verbal collage by John Byrum that appears in **SCORESHEET 19** also works for me. An approximation of its message is "doub poem t t he pla to rid usible surface throu gh inadequat the s e upple to v appear entilate ance of cont bein inuse g." But one soon realizes that it has been printed in two columns which one can read as: "doubt the plausible surface; (it is) inadequate to ventilate (your mind with fresh air); continue poem to rid (yourself of it) through (or by means of) the supple appearance of being (which is under the surface)."

So: a bit of somewhat arcane self-referentiality but fairly straightforward — perhaps too much so! But because the first letter of the word "supple" is on one line and the rest of the word on the next, one passage of the poem suddenly says both "the supple appearance of being" and "the u(a)pple (or shiny red, fruity, fruitful, fruitlike [and *from* some tree], with connotations of Eden) appearance of being." Other comparable intensifications happen throughout the piece, and in the one on silt on the other side of the sheet. And in **CELL**, a work by Byrum to which the 38th issue of **ABACUS** is devoted. And in his book, **DELTA: A TRILOGY**, which is available through The Segue Foundation (along with many other works by artists this column has dealt with such as Miekal And, Elizabeth Was, Crag Hill and Laurie Schneider).

Lurking among the many hilarious but not unduly hermetic graphics and poems in **CULT COMIX #10** is another piece that seems perilously near the Far-Joycean end of the clarity.continuum. It is by Jake Berry, "Wavering of int, then regarded efore, tome critical amounts. When spent in isolation - can event-tu-ally, prescope too & may faint," it begins. Incomprehensible? Maybe; but "int" could be short for "interest." And "event-tu-ally"" might have something to do with an event's changing into an ally....The thing remains obscure for me but there's something in it about the way a mind wavers into an artwork until "tome critical amounts" — or the work amoutsn to a critical tome. And that mind seems shown in action below the piece's text where Berry has drawn part of a face which is dreaming a melange of ideogram-like imaginary typography into the text, giving us a host of further meanderings to search for the upple appearances of.

Complexity seems the rule in **AQUARIUM**, by Mike Miskowski, too, But its mostly computerized, Pollock-dense graphixtrations (visual artworks) have a concealed eloquence. One of them, for instance, suddenly blurts all kinds of trucks and cars at you, in the process becoming far too gas-station homey to assign all the way into the over-complicated end of the clarity continuum. The book also contains poems by Miskowski, including "Accounting," a terrific satire on the obsession with reducing everything to numbers that afflicts so great a portion of our world.

With **SCORESHEET** 18, by John Stickney, we are back at the easy end of the clarity continuum. A 29-line text fills one of the sheet's sides. But all of it has been deleted with a magic marker except part of a line which says, "This does not concern me." Joke? Of course. But more: the slats of blinds over a window, the way the mind simplifies existence to its own narrow egocentric concerns; how much what doesn't concern one concerns one....

The haiku of the Wharton Hood/Brendan Donegan book **NEARLY HURONIA** achieve a more traditional simplicity than Stickney's piece. An example: "constant velocity/at the end of the road//muskeg, slack water." A straight-forward scene — but one which moves out of under-complication into considerations of speed and stillness, of the final durations that so many of the best haiku concern.

INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE #44 has its usual fine poems by people like M. kettner, MB Duggan, Guy Beining, Randall Brock, Dan Raphael, and so on, but it also has a number of fine but technically conventional views of very cool architecture, mostly skyscrapers, which seem to me photographic analogues, so far as traditional simplicity is concerned, to the Hood/Donegan poems. Some of these might be in danger of under-complication is not for their context among often bleak, complicated wild texts like John M. Bennett;s :Floating Car," with its wall that's "half of his/face, melted into a newsmagazine a/story of prisons, drowning, rain/battering the window. From these they serve to rescue the eye and mind into a calm above-it-all.

A VOICE WITHOUT SIDES #2 and **THE SUBTLE JOURNAL OF RAW COINAGE #16** are unconventionally-packaged yet also seem simple on the surface. The first consists of a cloth bag with four poetry-objects in it, a poeMvelope by Joel Lipman that's sprinkled with little bits of glitter and (messily) labeled, "trash E;" a wax seal poem by G. Huth; a patch of cloth cut from a Mike Miskowski painting; and a fluorescent red label that says "Jiggling" by John Bennett. Imagine the difficulty of finding a jiggling somewhere and then properly labeling it (for the Benefit of the Community) and you should start to recognize the kind of under-intensity that all these seemingly transparent pieces possess. As for **SJRC #16**, it is another collection of neologies from various sources by G. Huth. Representative of its contents, and a favorite of mine, is Marjorie Frye's "dictionaerie." True, it is quite uncomplicated. But consider the height and eagles — and hints of Spenserian faerie-dom — that is in it!

The next **SJRC** in Huth's series, #17, is, on the other hand, much more hermetic-seeming. Its four coinages, which include the Church of the SubGenius's "shordurpersavs," seem utterly opaque — but eventually clarify into an amazingly thorough-feeling summary of early urban verbalization, one of them enacting a Biblical place-name, one acting like an attempted vocalization, and one speaking of "print" and "paint" in a single breath.

FLUXONYMS, a book co-authored by Miekal And and his wife, Elizabeth Was, is full of verbal oddities which at first glance seem like "shordurpersavs." But they are merely strings of words smeared together — "gnunearthropod," for instance, being gnu/unearth/arthropod. Other words (like "nun" from "gnunearthropod") are derived from each string and listed under it. Are the results thus moderately clever but trivial games at the undercomplicated end of the clarity continuum? Some might be, but not the best. Take "cloveranda" — "clover and a..." picnic, say, or some other kind of country pleasure. But add the piece's under-words, "clover," "lover," "over," veranda" and "era", and the ambience takes on a more specifically romantic/nostalgic, southern summer density — and makes the piece a poem (as well as the kind of game all good poems also are).

Since he limits them to single established words, Richard Kostelanetz makes more rigorous fluxonyms in "A Cycle of Poems," which is in the Spring 1989 issue of **TRULY FINE**. Except for a few cases like his amusing break-up of "psychotherapist" into rap/rapist/her/he/the/hot/psychoterapist, however, they seem under-complicated to me — limitedly exploited, actually. **TRULY FINE** has a good wide selection of other work, though, of which my favorite is "The Belly Dancer," a poem by Cliff Dweller, which surrealizes excerpts from newspaper headlines into an equation of a belly dancer dipping teaspoons into the ocean with an old moon's fall into a strawberry patch. Somehow it all clicks for me.

With that I have come to the end of my space here. I hope that at least a little of what I've said has made experioddica easier for those of my readers not already fans of it. And that I've helped the rest become *better* fans of it, as I hope and believe I am through the writing of this column.

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Possibly Subversive Flower Arrangements

by Kerry Wendell Thornley

I still think the anti-intellectualism was Johnson's, though, and also Mao's. Politicians are all the same: "Yon Cassius has a lean and hungry look. He thinks too much. Such men are dangerous." And Caesar *was* right. We are dangerous — to them, to their power. When you can think of a sensible way of doing something and you have to argue with a gun instead of a man you become dangerous.

* * *

I've always, lately anyway, wondered if Ralph Borsodi was one of the architects of the J.F.K. murder and L.B.J. jake. Mildred Loomis seemed to be mischievous, hinting that he was. He was one of the smartest men who ever lived when it came to dealing with poverty. In the Depression the city of Dayton called upon him as a consultant and he devised Liberty Homestead, which was also where R.A.W. and Mildred Loomis met. They must have been very frustrated that F.D.R. was ignoring their workable answers in favor of authoritarian programs unconnected with land and bank reform that weren't working.

There have been hints for years that the anarchist conspiracy began in Yellow Springs, Ohio — with Wilson and Tracy Barnes, probably playing the role incognito with R.A.W. that Hunt as Gary Kirstein played with me.

(The Middle of the Trilogy)

The strangest thing about it all is that I met Wilson by accident — that simply couldn't have been planned unless mind control was involved. Ever since the French Quarter I'd been working fanatically to organize a group marriage. Then I read an article about Kerista in FACT magazine by a guy I never heard of named Robert Anton Wilson. So I became involved with the L.A. Kerista group and, for the first time in my life, wasn't sexually frustrated. At the same time Richard Bray compiled an issue of INNOVATOR called "Postmen Against The State." The Playboy Adviser had been complaining about Federal snooping of swingers' mail., So I suggested Dick send them that issue — which featured Lysander Spooner, among others.

Wilson, who *was* the Playboy Adviser, wrote us a letter, enclosing some pamphlets about Spooner's not-so-capitalist economic ideas, which of course began an argument — since I, still very close to Ayn Rand's ideology, too issue with him. (Wilson won every argument we ever had except one. He insisted humans were naturally monogamous and pair-bonding animals. I disagreed. Many years later — after we;d almost forgot about it in a heated exchange of letters — he said, "You were right. All our friends these days are into open marriages. It's us who are abnormal: Arlen and I are just queer for each other.")

So anyway, R.A.W. converted me to Spooner's economics — which were also Tucker's and Warren's and Borsodi's and Loomis's and even, Goddess forbid, Lawrence Labadie's economics (I always hated Labadie). Wilson was also into Bakunin and Kropotkin — which presents no difficulty for an anarchist, since it is only an argument about what will happen when what all agree are the necessary measures have bene taken — a metaphysical disagreement about human nature, and a mild one — whether liberated individuals tend to be more competitive or cooperative. In that respect I became, and still am, a communist.

* * *

What gripes me most is that within the intelligence community the Libertarian Left, Center and Right treat one another as deadly enemies — since they all belong to different "clubs". There is no such division among free anarchists. Without any central committee, everyone shares a very similar analysis — more consensual than the factions of Marxism by far — and almost as similar ideas about strategy and at least an empathy about one another's tactics.

Much of the problem, I'm convinced, is these idiot karma and reincarnation cults — these Rube Goldberg approaches to movement building that depend upon lies and that don't get to the depths of anarchist theory. How, for example, can anyone who has not first sat half-afraid watching Stirner demolish every traditional morality appreciate Kropotkin's rational ethic of mutual aid? Instead we get these Christians who are called "popcorn" whose anarchism would forbid fucking, etc. — or would at least worry the whole subject to death with gossip. That's why I keep pushing Stirner, not unaware of the risks, either.

* * *

Cramped individuals are driven to desperate measures, time and again!

* * *

Room? You say you want room? The landlords will give you room?

Are you kidding? They'll find a way to *rent* room! Why isn't there any room to begin with — because whole portions of unused land are fenced ff. Because, originally, of the Enclosure Laws — which drove everyone into the slums of the cities.

Fighting crime with the voluntary and enthusiastic aid of the Cosa Nostra makes more sense.

* * *

In fact, that's an idea! Just find a way to make it pay...

* * *

Carlos Marcello for District Attorney, (Probably not much different from Garrison, actually).

* * *

(In fact I suspect Garrison wrote the World Power Foundation manifesto as the result to discussions with Marcello).

* * *

Who else besides Garrison would say: "Thousands of people are being sacrificed every day. Why not have them sacrificed for you?"

* * *

Although it was probably Marcello's idea not to waste food, There is natural compassion buried somewhere in everyone.

* * *

Sacrifice people. Accumulate human slaves. Keep thugs and sadists away from your slaves. And above all, don't waste food.

* * *

Actually, it is functionally about the same as any other philosophy of social change, or of reaction — either one. Degend the nation. Conscript soldiers. Treat them right. Hmmmm. Actually, Marcello seems more merciful. At least he's against wasting food. The state pays farmers not to grow things.

* * *

I don't hate people like my father and Manuel Maloor who think F.D.R. was a saint. I recognize that their intentions are the same as my own. In fact I like them much more than I like most conservatives and many libertarian capitalists and a few individualist anarchists. Murray Rothbard is to my mind Roosevelt's most articulate critic among them. Murray is, however, at least as terrifying as Kissinger — blood and guts and gore and mayhem, page after page, letter after letter, with such robust gusto — in salivating anticipation of The Revolution. You keep getting the idea that revolutionary violence is an end in itself, in corresponding with Murray — that the ends are subservient to the furious means.

Yet his case against Roosevelt is as damning as Smedley Butler's case against the ruling class that tried to overthrow him with a 1930s version of a National Security Adviser — in face he leaves you wondering if they didn't secretly succeed after all, *before* assassinating Kennedy.

* * *

They say LBJ's "butterscotch diamond tie" depended upon the willingness of anarchists to keep secrets for Marxists. Methinks the Kronstadt Vengeance Committee must've struck with the publication of the Trilogy, What in both Erisian and orthodox Maoist numerology would be called 12:22.

* * *

Unfortunately, because of the reactionary nature of page 12 — the rulers seem to have won again — both against anarchists and Marxists.

* * *

I tell you why I don't like every action being interpreted as a vote and why I would refuse political power of an administrative nature even if I could wield it in plain English — because it neurologically armors you the same way sexual repression does. You wind up either way with this little Fuhrer inside yourself — urging you to do exactly the opposite of what you want to do, afraid to admit to anyone that what you are doing is what you think they expect instead of what you want.

* * *

I always think of Dr. Strangelove, who had to keep grabbing his arm to keep from giving the President a Nazi salute: a precise illustration of the Reichian theory of armor arising because of muscle against muscle — pulling it in opposite directions.

* * *

So here I am: A true authorized misfit — with a theory to back it up. More than Oswald ever dreamed of becoming.

* * *

[Aeditor's Note: Previous installments of *Possibly Subversive Flower Arrangements* appeared in FF21, and FF26 through FF29.]

CURMUDGEON CORNER
BY GARRY DE YOUNG
J.P. MORGAN

THE REAL AMERICANS!

The thousands of us who publish these small circulation magazines are often looked upon by our neighbors as either some kind of subversives or naive ne'er do wells who should be out "working" at a job.

Because most of us work on a shoestring and keep shuffling our meager finances, robbing Peter to pay Paul while putting up with the usual indignities imposed upon "radicals" by those who see themselves as "successful businessmen" we are often made to feel like the proverbial Uncle Tom who must beg, hat in hand, for recognition.

I am not talking about recognition in the form of fame and fortune, not at all. I am talking about the basic recognition as a human being, of a person worthy of being treated with the courtesy which human dignity commands.

In none of the small towns in which I have lived, and I have lived in many of them, have I been accorded this dignity.

My place has always been that of the second class citizen and I am very much aware that most other small publishers, men and women with a sense of their own worth, those who refuse to "suck up" to the members of the local chambers of commerce, are treated similarly.

While it is *we*, the literary avant garde of this generation who are the true Poets, the true literaturists, while it is *we* who are the prophets without honor in our own communities, the fact remains that it is not *we* who have sold our souls for a mess of pottage and it is not *we* who are the whores of the day.

It is *we* the *real* movers and shakers who wield influence far beyond our numbers, not within our own communities, but mainly in other communities. One reason for this is that familiarity breeds contempt and seldom will your next door neighbor recognize your genius, the worthiness of what you have to tell the world. So it is, so it has always been, so it may, perhaps, always be.

It is *we*, the men and women of brilliance and courage who are faced with the indignities of being denied credit by the local representatives of such big corporations such as the A.B. Dick Company, which here in Iowa has consistently dealt with me in a most demeaning and discriminatory manner.

But more than that. Recently I sent out about one hundred letters to local businessmen asking them to place an ad in my magazine. *Not one replied!* Mind you, I buy my gasoline at these gas stations, I shop at these supermarkets, I buy my clothing and other products in their stores. But they are not at all interested in what I am doing, hold me in contempt because I don't make the big money they do, hence am not, in their eyes, "successful" and worthy of their support.

Yet every week the local **SPENCER SHOPPER** comes out on Wednesdays and on Saturdays, And there are full page ads from the furniture stores, entire sectional inserts by the supermarkets, and hundreds of other ads which make up these papers. Big money tossed into the pockets of the daily **SPENCER REPORTER** which is nothing but a small minded gossip sheet.

What these advertisers fail to realize is that they think they are spending their advertising dollars wisely but in fact they are deluding themselves. Most of us don't even pay attention to these ads and when the shopper comes we toss it into the trash, including the sections with the free coupons. It is just too much bother.

What these merchants fail to realize is that the subscribers to our smaller circulation magazines are a dedicated following and are above average intelligence as well as above most people in their level of sophistication.

I know, but the average merchant has not yet learned, that money put into advertising in small circulation magazines produces a gold mine. It is *our* "Acres of Diamonds" producing far more return for the investment than advertising in the larger circulation magazines.

I am, among other things, a horticulturist. Horticulturists easily gain a loyal following if their products are good and mine were always good.

When advertising in other small circulation horticultural magazines I always got a good response but when, several years ago, I spent five hundred dollars on an ad in **HORTICULT**, one of the industry's more prestigious magazines with a large circulation, I received *not one* response!

So while we may at times feel discouraged, let us keep the awareness of our own worth in the forefront of our mind. It is not *we* who are on the payroll of a daily or weekly newspaper which is only concerned about the bottom line of the big buck but instead are very much concerned about intellectual honesty and the directions America may be taking.

We are the ones who know that NBC is owned by GE and that the news is carefully laundered not to offend GE. We see the fluff put out by **US NEWS AND WORLD REPORT** as well as the fluff put out by **NEWSWEEK**. We see the sham and the deceit and while our neighbors are either too dumb to see it or too irresponsible to do anything about it, it is *we* the literary figures of today, the true free enterprisers, the Jeffersonian artisans and crasftsmen, who are *The Real Americans*.

It is just unfortunate that more people in other countries are not aware of us so that they will know that not all of us are the Ugly Americans they see through the pages of **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**, the **DES MOINES REGISTER**, or the **SPENCER DAILY REPORTER**.

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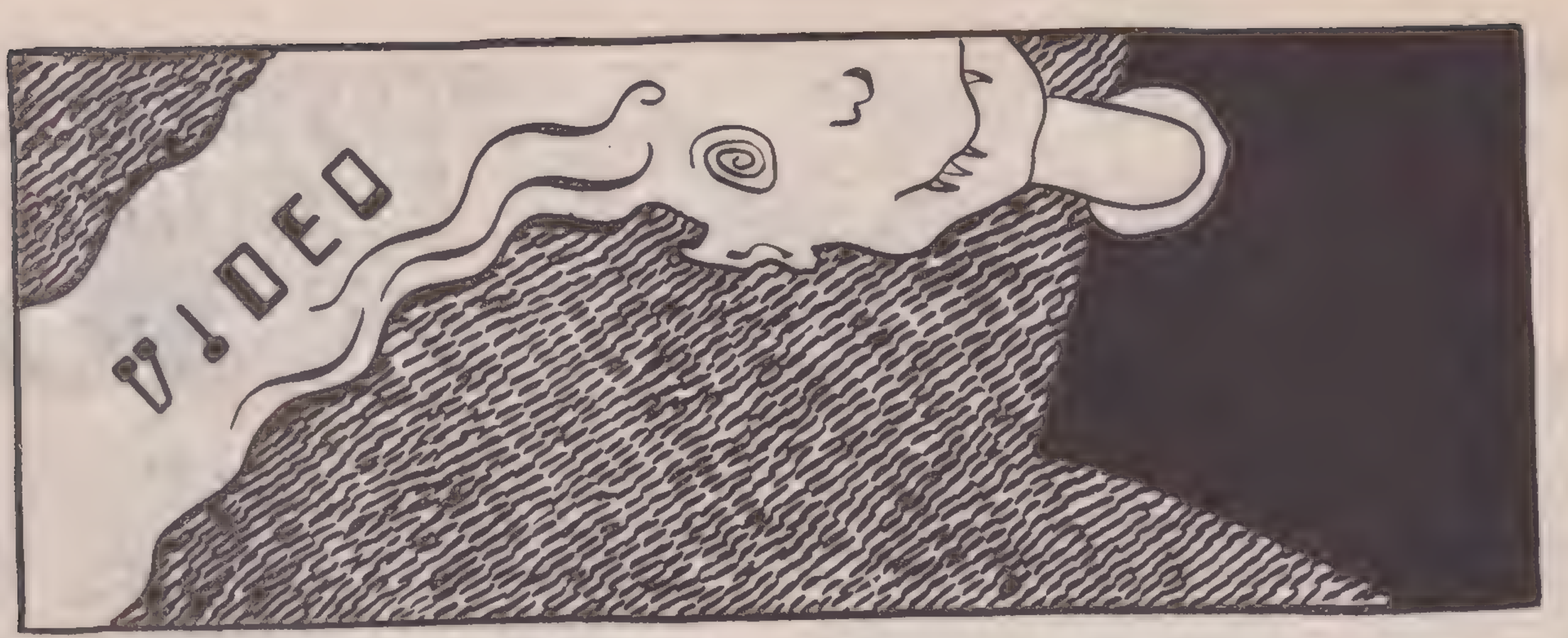


All tapes are VHS unless otherwise indicated. Feel free to send more VHS tapes for review in future issues.

★★★★★

FAT CITY DEATH SLED FILM COMPILATION ($16 from Motorbooty, PO Box 460472, San Francisco, CA 94146-0472): A selection of 15 short features by four different producers, apparently shot in a variety of video media, most not too spiffy. We watched this at the recent **FACTSHEET FIVE** party and the general consensus was the Danny Plotnick's lead feature "Skate Witches" was pretty cool in a campy sort of way, and the minute and a half of Cro-Mags concert footage at the end by Dana Mendelssohn were worth watching too. Unfortunately the features in between ranged from silly to just plain boring, although a vocal minority insisted there was something worthwhile about "The Psychosis of Tony Lambert", featuring strange sex and a disgusting psychiatrist.

★★★★★

FLYBREEDER STUDIOS, short features ($15 [specify VHS/Beta] from Tobias Allen, 7708 1/2 Greenwood Ave. N, Seattle, WA 98103): A collection of four shot-on-video features, with a total running time somewhat over four hours. "The Scripture Murders" has a fine anti-evangelical plot, a bit of gore, and cliched hard-boiled detective dialogue — unfortunately the youthful actors just don't make it as homicide dicks. "Simons Real Bad Day" is perhaps the low point of the tape. The first production Flybreeder ever made, it drags considerably as this geek has a day punctuated by his love life getting ruined and even his retreat into nature not working out right. "Nico-Teen" is a fine short thing, taking off from the Surgeon General's warning that nicotine is as bad as cocaine or heroin, and showing the gradual slide of an abuser into death — marred only slightly by lame special effects at the end. Finally, "Teenage Ghouls From Hell" is a sort of George Romero salute, with a few dead kids going hog-wild at a local rock party, featuring music from Catbutt. Overall, this is not a pro package by any means; the editing is choppy and the camera shaky at times. And the few bits of homophobia were quite annoying as well. But as an amateur attempt to utilize a new medium, it may be pointing in the direction we're going to see more folks going in the future.

★★★★★

THE HEART OF STRIPPING ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Dept. FS-5, Sunnyvale, CA 94086): After a fast-forwardable introduction and scanty attempt at providing a "historical" setting, this tape gets down to business. Business is, in this case, eight or ten short features of strippers from decades back, all working to music as they peel their clothes. It's not particularly racy stuff, as all the women keep on at least tassles or glued-on butterflies and g-strings — the end effect is more like exotic dance than pornography. Indeed, dance is the unifying factor of most of these films, except for one curious one which features a busty young lady just squirming about on the floor. There's also a short feature starring Elaine Barrymore and with a narrator, but it promises a lot more than it delivers. A curiosity more than anything else.

★★★★★

JUST COWS ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Dept. FS-5, Sunnyvale, CA 94086): The title of this one is perfectly informative; this tape is indeed 17 minutes of just cows. It's an "ambient" video, designed to provide background visuals without requiring a lot of attention, and does that admirably well. Cows sitting, lying, standing, eating...just about everything but cows mooing, although there are snatches of fiddle music overlaid now and then. Perfect to confuse your friends.

★★★★★

POLICE STATE, by Nick Zedd (Penetration Films, PO Box 1589, New York, NY 10009): A dark fantasy produced and directed by Nick, who also plays the starring role as a street kid who gets hassled for no particular reason by an old cop. Zedd smarts off a bit and stands up for his rights, and is soon hauled off to the precinct station (after a little preliminary roughing up). There the good cop/bad cop routine mutates until both are bad cops, and the interrogation — they are now convinced he's got some drugs stashed — gets progressively more brutal. Just as you think that Zedd will have to give in, the amazing and disgusting ending comes along, finally forcing the film over the edge into the land of sheer speculation. Scary and just a little bit gross, this will warm the hearts of punks who see the police as the Enemy.

★★★★★

RADIATION WORKERS: REPROCESSING ($14.95 from Video-SIG, 1030-C E. Duane Ave., Dept. FS-5, Sunnyvale, CA 94086): A 1982 documentary about Nuclear Fuel Services, a Getty Oil operation which extracted uranium and plutonium from spent fuel rods for a while out at the west end of New York State. (Coincidentally, this plant is also the subject of a song on Roger Manning's new album; see the music reviews in this FF). Through a combination of stock footage and interviews with plant workers and community members, it tells a story of conflict, economic health versus safety risks. Personally, I find the risks more convincing, especially since some of them are recounted by the ex-lab manager at NFS, who quit in protest over rising radioactivity levels there. THe plant is now closed, but there's still a billion bucks or so to be spent on cleaning it up. Meanwhile the maintenance workers interviewed here are still walking around with plutonium in their lungs and bones — assuming they're still alive.

★★★★★

SITES, SOUNDS AND ACTIONS ("Not for sale, per se, but can & will be made available to public access stations and/or art galleries willing to show it at close to cost." Contact Peter Petrisko, Jr., PO Box 56942, Phoenix, AZ 85079): A documentation of a night of art and performance in Phoenix, showcasing some of the members of the growing art and music scene there. Music from Jazz, Donuts and Sleep is scattered throughout, as are poems from Paul Waldman, who does a sort of minimalistic reading. There are also two main bits that are not chopped up. One is a performance piece, "Close Cover Before Striking", by Petrisko and Chris Winkler, featuring ranting, running around, and pyromania. The other is Richard Cordova performing a mildly satirical reading, "Homeboys for the Humanities", as a bit of Chicano pride. About 30 minutes total, and with plenty of changes of pace to keep it interesting.

★★★★★

WEAR YR HAT, by Phillip Lollar ($7 or swap for other videos from Skeleton Quarterly, PO Box 1452, Santa Cruz, CA 95061): A short (under ten minutes) film that apparently went to some college class for credit. It's either not very deep or far too deep for me. The basic plot line (such as it is) concerns a fight between two housemates, one wearing a conical newspaper hat painted red, the other one a similar but unpainted hat. Technically competent enough, but I'm left wondering why it happened at all.

★★★★★

VIDEO NOTES:

•**BIKINI GIRL** will release its tenth issue this summer. It will be a videotape and will cost $47 — that's right, $47. Contributions are now being accepted. Send your videos (short one preferred) to the editor, Lisa Herskovits, PO Box 319, Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009-0319. Submissions are nonreturnable, but those whose work is used will receive a free copy of the final tape.

•**FLASH PUBLICATIONS** (PO Box 745, Woodstock, NY 12498) will send you their catalog of "Unusual Photography Books & Videos" for $1. Their main subject matter is the human body: tattooing and erotic piercing are very prominent here, in tapes ranging from PG to adults-only.

•**The Gaia Institute** (PO Box 852, South Lynnfield, MA 01940) produces television from an animal rights point of view. For $15 you can join and support their work — or drop them a line if you can get their series on to your local CATV station.

•**George Maranville** (208 Zandale Dr., Lexington, KY 40503) writes: "I am looking for independent/amateur videos, films, talk, music, political, religious shows, **ANYTHING** — no matter how serious or silly, technically slick or shoddy — in order to begin a **PUBLIC ACCESS NETWORK** for alternative programming. Anyone interested in getting more exposure for their work (and hopefully exposing others), please write for more info."

•**The Music Video Collector** (J. Rochet & Associates, Box 127, 114-41 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills, NY 11375) is a source for all sort of music videos for sale, from Cab Calloway to Bauhaus. A buck or two will get you their latest catalog. They sent along one of the tapes they carry, a mainstream collection called simply **HEAVY METAL**. It features 7 cuts from 5 bands, including Black Sabbath, Ozzy Osbourne ("Diary of a Madman" — best cut on the tape, in fact) and Mamas Boys.

•**R.T.S. Video** (PO Box 1829, Novato, CA 94948) offers thousands of videos for sale, from the silent movie era on to the present. Prices run fromabout $20 to $80. They'll probably send a sample catalog on request.

•**SFTV** (c/o The Press Gang, 9902 Plover Dr., Austin, TX 78753) is trying to survey the interest in an all science-fiction cable TV station. For more information send an SASE & 10¢ to cover copying costs.

•**VIDEO-SIG** (1030 E. Duane Ave. #C, Sunnyvale, CA 94086) sells hundreds of videos for $14.95 each. They seem to be especially strong in instructional and classical films. They'll send you their latest catalog for $4.95.

•**YES! Videos** (PO Box 10726, Arlington, VA 22210) specializes in "fine arts, transformation, and world travel" videos. Catalog on request.

★★★★★

NTSC CYBERBEAT

by Belka Stamas

About a year ago I was suffering from delirium and foolishly let two friends convince me to make a video. Although we didn't have any money or camera experience, we managed to pirate everything from tripods to editing time and found ourselves with a garage piece with no particular genre and a blank file for distribution. Twelve months later we still have a garage piece without a genre format, but the distribution file is getting fairly thick with some help from program producers coast to coast.

This column is a one-shot wad of information for anybody interested in showing their videos on cable programs that specialize in promoting hamsters that have broken the treadmill. Here's a sampling of programs requesting tapes:

TRAUMA TV (2261 Market St. #328, San Francisco, CA 94114-1693; 415-861-7226): Trauma TV is a half hour show aired on three cable systems on the ViaCom Network in the Bay area. Air time is 4:30 Monday afternoons and Jim Lucio and Victor Arieo who produce the show also have great contacts with the university systems there and can get you screenings on closed circuit shows at places like San Francisco State.

SUB-MISSION LIVE! (PO Box 6824, St. Paul, MN 55106-0324): An underground MTV style show going three years strong and featuring both music videos and live concert segments of local and national acts. Dared Hagel is the contact here.

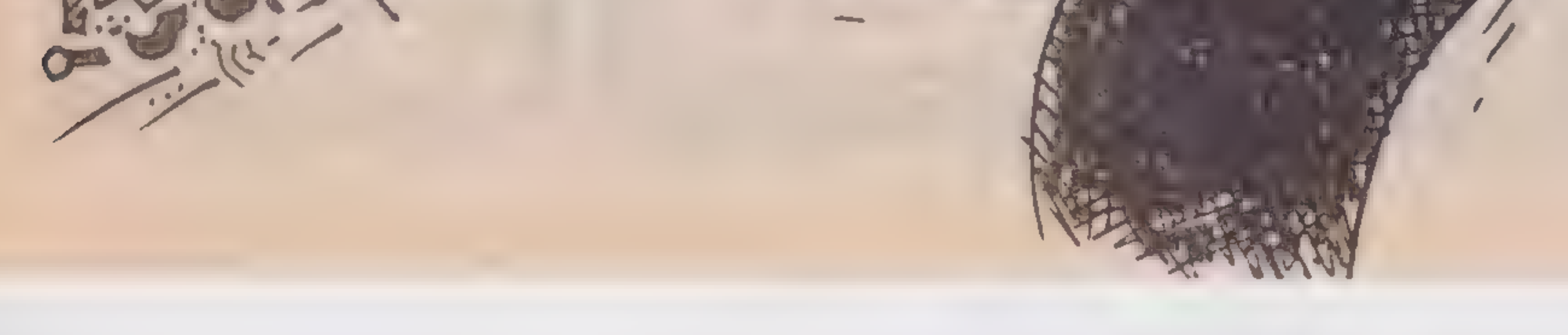
REAL GEORGE'S BACKROOM TV (PO Box 3111, Albany, NY 12203; 518-489-0658): George Guarino is the unofficial guru of underground programming with "Backroom TV" in its eighth year of the race. George screens both shorts and music videos and is extensively distributed, with regular slots in Albany, Schenectady, Troy, Rensselaer, Poughkeepsie, Tucson, Seattle, and St. Louis...at least.

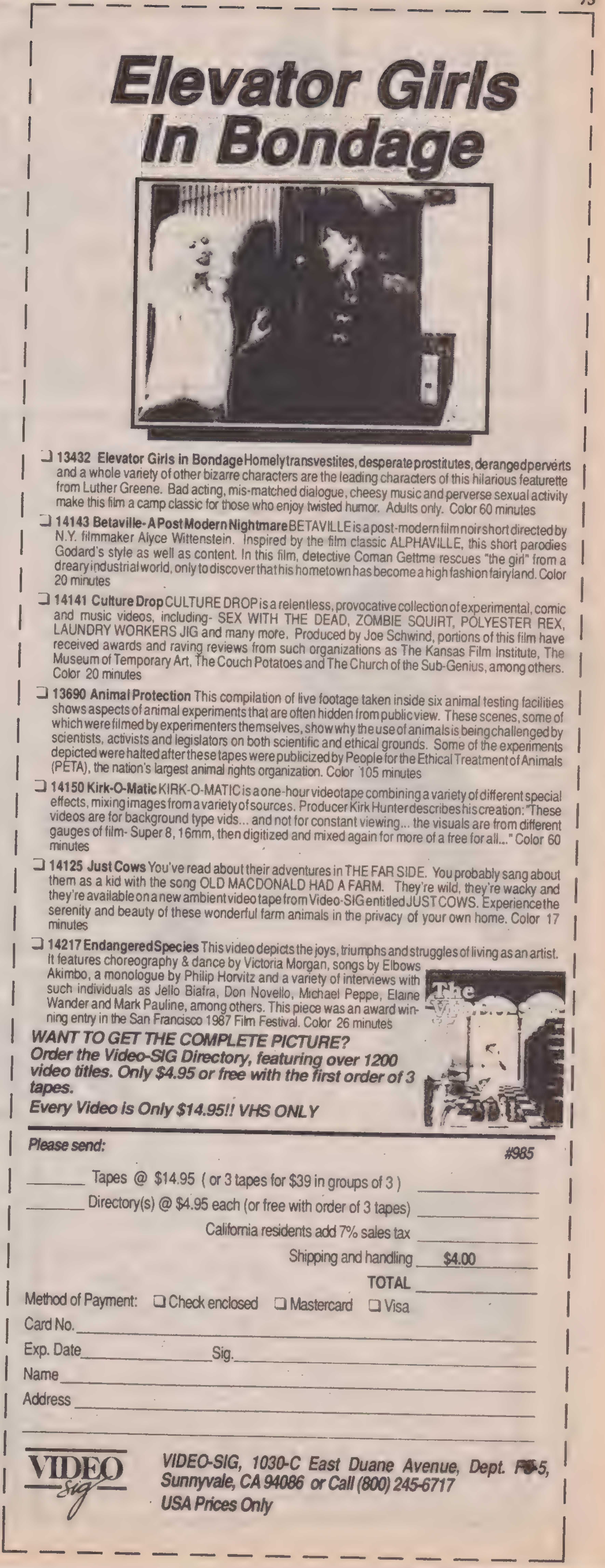
HOMEMOVIES (PO Box 427, Broomfield, CO 80020): Homemovies is another geriatric in alternative programming. In its seventh year out Rocky Mountain way, they've got an estimated audience of 10,000 for their 10 o'clock Saturday night show. Nick Frazer, Bill Hammel and Peter Johnson toast the town for an hour and are broadcast through local PBS station KBDI channel 12. They're always looking for new shorts and with any luck Hunter Thompson might be watching your work.

All of these shows will screen 1/2 and 3/4 inch U-matic tapes, but I'd recommend writing them before you send anything to see what the requirements are for your format. Another great source for video info is **FILM THREAT**, the high-brow of low-brow in alternative film and video print — you'll find them listed in the ZINES section of FF.

If any readers need a program added to this listing, or a tape reviewed, you can get in touch with me at 1218 South 11th, Philadelphia, PA 19147. Please send tapes on 1/2 inch VHS and letters on pulp (as opposed to disk). An SASE is required to get anything returned, so if you want your tape back be sure to include another mailer with the correct postage.

[Aeditor's note: tapes for review may be sent to either myself or Belka, depending on whose opinions you want to risk. If sending directly to her, be sure to mark the tape for review in FF, otherwise it might not end up here.]





Elevator Girls In Bondage

☐ **13432 Elevator Girls in Bondage** Homely transvestites, desperate prostitutes, deranged perverts and a whole variety of other bizarre characters are the leading characters of this hilarious featurette from Luther Greene. Bad acting, mis-matched dialogue, cheesy music and perverse sexual activity make this film a camp classic for those who enjoy twisted humor. Adults only. Color 60 minutes

☐ **14143 Betaville- A Post Modern Nightmare** BETAVILLE is a post-modern film noir short directed by N.Y. filmmaker Alyce Wittenstein. Inspired by the film classic ALPHAVILLE, this short parodies Godard's style as well as content. In this film, detective Coman Gettme rescues "the girl" from a dreary industrial world, only to discover that his hometown has become a high fashion fairyland. Color 20 minutes

☐ **14141 Culture Drop** CULTURE DROP is a relentless, provocative collection of experimental, comic and music videos, including- SEX WITH THE DEAD, ZOMBIE SQUIRT, POLYESTER REX, LAUNDRY WORKERS JIG and many more. Produced by Joe Schwind, portions of this film have received awards and raving reviews from such organizations as The Kansas Film Institute, The Museum of Temporary Art, The Couch Potatoes and The Church of the Sub-Genius, among others. Color 20 minutes

☐ **13690 Animal Protection** This compilation of live footage taken inside six animal testing facilities shows aspects of animal experiments that are often hidden from public view. These scenes, some of which were filmed by experimenters themselves, show why the use of animals is being challenged by scientists, activists and legislators on both scientific and ethical grounds. Some of the experiments depicted were halted after these tapes were publicized by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), the nation's largest animal rights organization. Color 105 minutes

☐ **14150 Kirk-O-Matic** KIRK-O-MATIC is a one-hour videotape combining a variety of different special effects, mixing images from a variety of sources. Producer Kirk Hunter describes his creation: "These videos are for background type vids... and not for constant viewing... the visuals are from different gauges of film- Super 8, 16mm, then digitized and mixed again for more of a free for all..." Color 60 minutes

☐ **14125 Just Cows** You've read about their adventures in THE FAR SIDE. You probably sang about them as a kid with the song OLD MACDONALD HAD A FARM. They're wild, they're wacky and they're available on a new ambient video tape from Video-SIG entitled JUST COWS. Experience the serenity and beauty of these wonderful farm animals in the privacy of your own home. Color 17 minutes

☐ **14217 Endangered Species** This video depicts the joys, triumphs and struggles of living as an artist. It features choreography & dance by Victoria Morgan, songs by Elbows Akimbo, a monologue by Philip Horvitz and a variety of interviews with such individuals as Jello Biafra, Don Novello, Michael Peppe, Elaine Wander and Mark Pauline, among others. This piece was an award winning entry in the San Francisco 1987 Film Festival. Color 26 minutes

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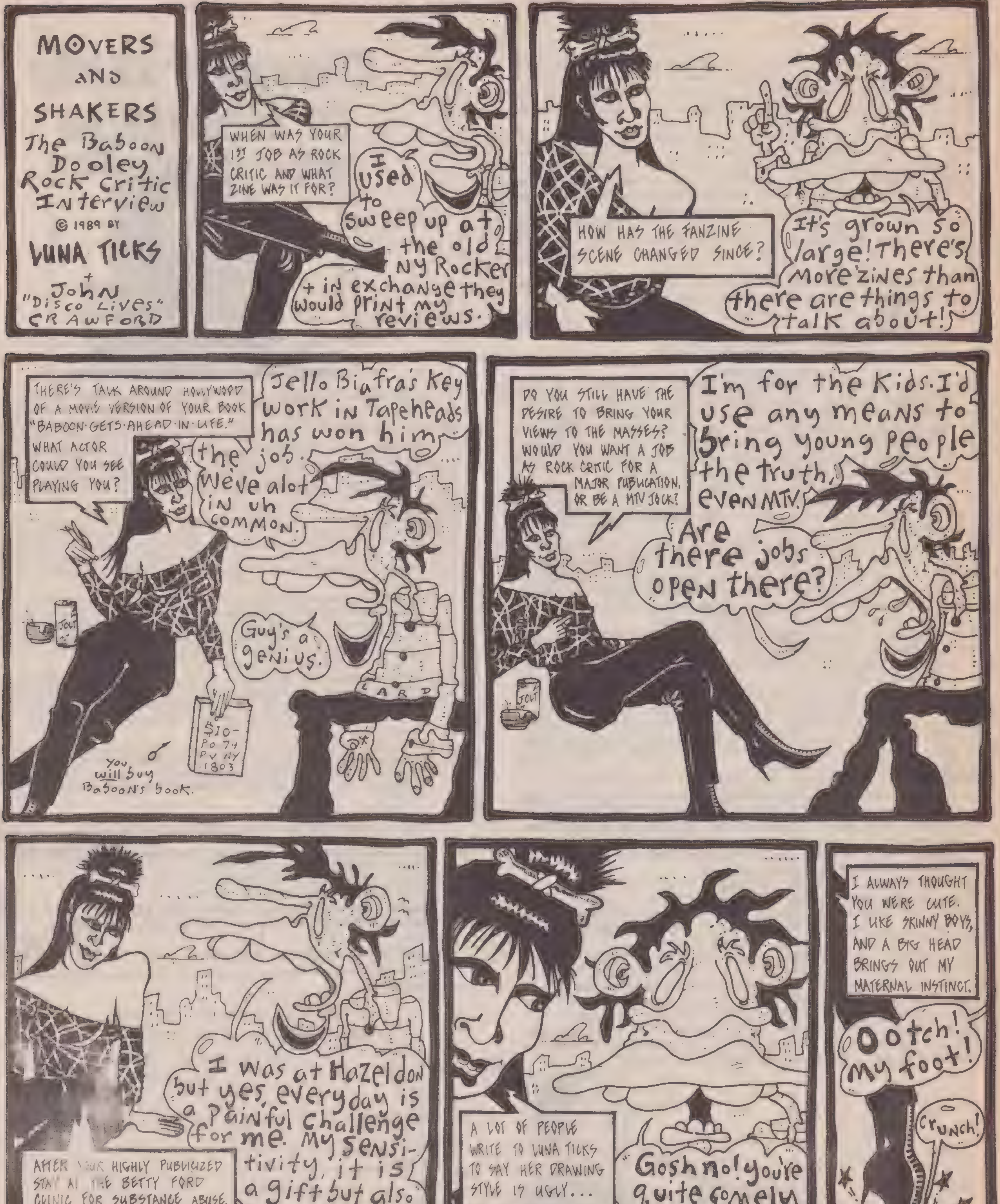
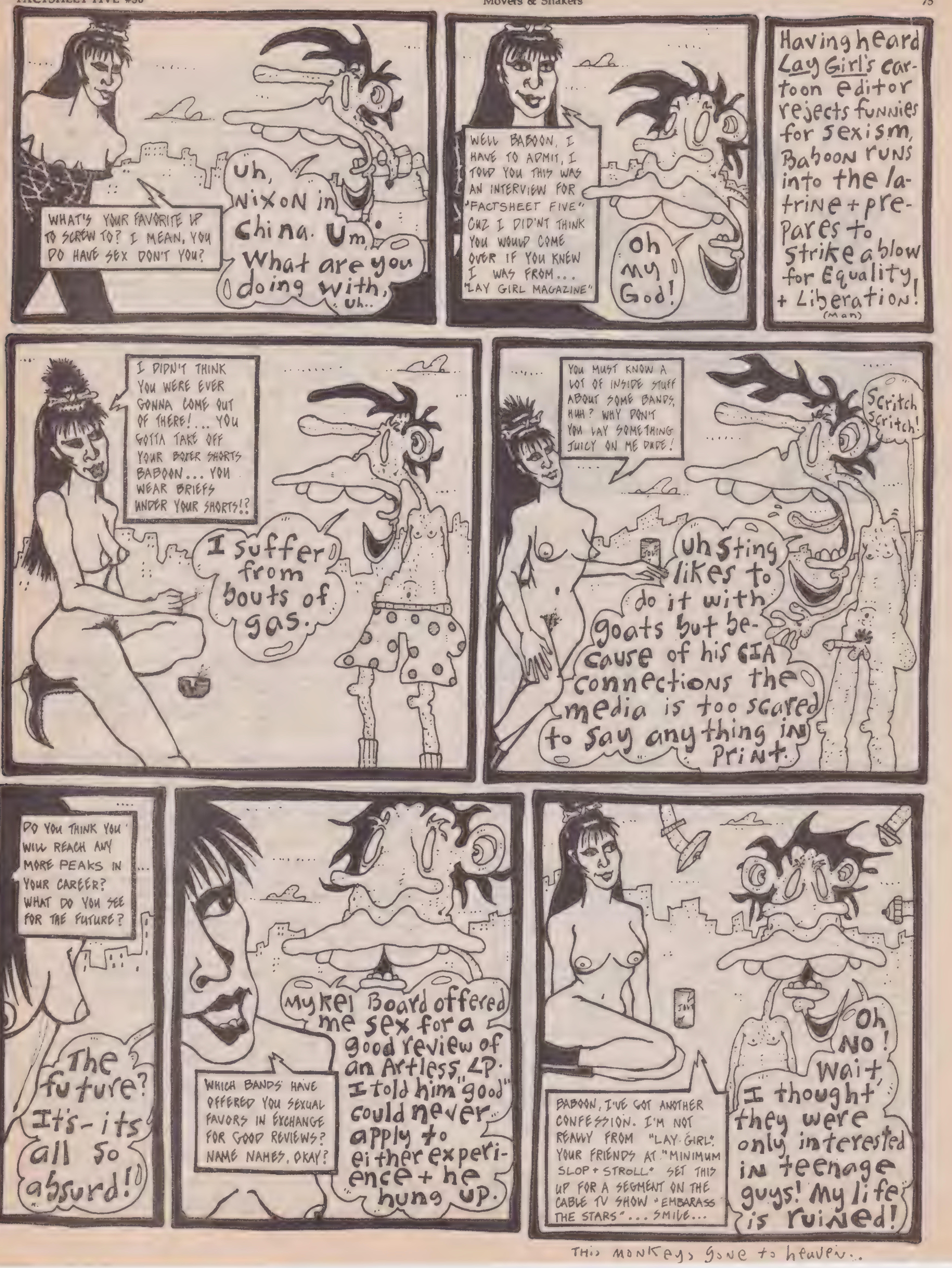

MOVERS AND SHAKERS
The Baboon Dooley Rock Critic Interview
© 1989 BY LUNA TICKS + John "Disco Lives" CRAWFORD
WHEN WAS YOUR 1ST JOB AS ROCK CRITIC AND WHAT ZINE WAS IT FOR?
I used to sweep up at the old NY Rocker + in exchange they would print my reviews.
HOW HAS THE FANZINE SCENE CHANGED SINCE?
It's grown so large! There's more zines than there are things to talk about!
THERE'S TALK AROUND HOLLYWOOD OF A MOVIE VERSION OF YOUR BOOK "BABOON·GETS·AHEAD·IN·LIFE." WHAT ACTOR COULD YOU SEE PLAYING YOU?
Jello Biafra's key work in Tapeheads has won him the job. We've alot in uh common.
Guy's a genius.
JOLT
LARD
$10- Po 74 Pv NY 1803
You will buy Baboon's book.
DO YOU STILL HAVE THE DESIRE TO BRING YOUR VIEWS TO THE MASSES? WOULD YOU WANT A JOB AS ROCK CRITIC FOR A MAJOR PUBLICATION, OR BE A MTV JOCK?
I'm for the Kids. I'd use any means to bring young people the truth, even MTV.
Are there jobs open there?
JOLT
I was at Hazeldon but yes, everyday is a painful challenge for me. My sensitivity, it is a gift but also a curse. Only art + music gives my life meaning.
AFTER YOUR HIGHLY PUBLICIZED STAY AT THE BETTY FORD CLINIC FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, HOW HAS BEING STRAIGHT, FOR THE 1ST TIME IN YEARS, AFFECTED YOUR ENJOYMENT OF MUSIC + FOR THAT MATTER LIFE?
A LOT OF PEOPLE WRITE TO LUNA TICKS TO SAY HER DRAWING STYLE IS UGLY... DO YOU THINK I'M UGLY BABOON?
Gosh no! you're quite comely in a bohemian sort of way.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE CUTE. I LIKE SKINNY BOYS, AND A BIG HEAD BRINGS OUT MY MATERNAL INSTINCT.
Ootch! my foot!
Crunch!


WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE LP TO SCREW TO? I MEAN, YOU DO HAVE SEX DON'T YOU?
Uh, Nixon in China. Um, What are you doing with, uh..
WELL BABOON, I HAVE TO ADMIT, I TOLD YOU THIS WAS AN INTERVIEW FOR "FACTSHEET FIVE" CUZ I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD COME OVER IF YOU KNEW I WAS FROM... "LAY GIRL MAGAZINE"
Oh my God!
Having heard Lay Girl's cartoon editor rejects funnies for sexism, Baboon runs into the latrine + prepares to strike a blow for Equality + Liberation! (man)
I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE EVER GONNA COME OUT OF THERE!... YOU GOTTA TAKE OFF YOUR BOXER SHORTS BABOON... YOU WEAR BRIEFS UNDER YOUR SHORTS!?
I suffer from bouts of gas.
YOU MUST KNOW A LOT OF INSIDE STUFF ABOUT SOME BANDS, HUH? WHY DON'T YOU LAY SOMETHING JUICY ON ME DUDE!
Scritch Scritch!
uh Sting likes to do it with goats but because of his CIA connections the media is too scared to say anything in Print.
DO YOU THINK YOU WILL REACH ANY MORE PEAKS IN YOUR CAREER? WHAT DO YOU SEE FOR THE FUTURE?
The future? It's-its all so absurd!
WHICH BANDS HAVE OFFERED YOU SEXUAL FAVORS IN EXCHANGE FOR GOOD REVIEWS? NAME NAMES, OKAY?
Mykel Board offered me sex for a good review of an Artless LP. I told him "good" could never apply to either experience + he hung up.
BABOON, I'VE GOT ANOTHER CONFESSION. I'M NOT REALLY FROM "LAY GIRL". YOUR FRIENDS AT "MINIMUM SLOP + STROLL" SET THIS UP FOR A SEGMENT ON THE CABLE TV SHOW "EMBARASS THE STARS"... SMILE...
Oh NO! Wait, I thought they were only interested in teenage guys! My life is ruined!

This monkeys gone to heaven..

AUDIO
©Luna Ticks

★★★★★

Reviews this time around are by the Aeditor (MG), Carol Schutzbank (CS), Ken Johnson (KJ), PJ Bellomo (pj), and new staffers Adam Gray (AG) and Dina Williams (DW). [Jeff Leon where are you?] As usual, the closing date for music was somewhat earlier than that for the other sections, due to the logistics involved. If you get us something to listen to by the 10th of the month before an issue comes out, we'll do our best to get to it — though if you send us more than one tape or record we'll probably space them across several issues. On with the show...

★★★★★

, self-titled ($6 from Audio Research Foundation, 615 State St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101): Sort of light industrial music. That is, while the backbone here is a variety of crashes and clanks, and there's even some pounding metal, there are also vocals and more traditional instrumentation rather than total clangor. I think "Haze of Mice" is my favorite track. Mainly instrumental stuff with an eerie feel to it. (T/MG)

★★★★★

13 ENGINES, "Byram Lake Blues" (Nocturnal Records, PO Box 19550, Detroit, MI 48219): Somewhat gloomy rock music with sharp edges and poppy sensibilities. This is a very full record, with close to 50 minutes of music, and it's all solid stuff with moods ranging from wistful to driving. These guys came out of Toronto to tour the states — a good reason to keep the borders open. Not sappy, but there's no harsh edges to interfere with pleasurable listening. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

2 CAR FAMILY, "August Sunset" b/w "Alone I'm Down" ($3 from Pig-Dog Records, PO Box 3603, Lawrencce, KS 66046): Really hard-edged pop love songs. Good points: the tricky rhythms and fine drumming from Stacy Hoobler and the lyrics, smart without beign sappy. The bad: Skinny D's overly-styled vocals (taken to the point of incomprehensibility) and the silly echo fadeout at the end. Verdict: Not bad on the whole; keep an ear cocked for their forthcoming album. (45/MG)

★★★★★

35 LITTLE DUCKS IN A BASKET, "Monastery" ($5.50 from the Furnace Room, 10556 Lincoln St., East Canton, OH 44730): Slow moving and off-the-wall garage rock with an animal fascination. The final tune, "The Monastery Cow" is an extended jam with strange concepts and stranger playing. Harmonica, kazoo, flute and a way of looking at the world sideways combine to make this enjoyable if a bit underdeveloped. (T/MG)

★★★★★

9 FIREMAN 9, "IHSV" (Third International Global Strategy Network, c/o Laurick, 2220 Walnut St. #408, Philadelphia, PA 19103): An extremely enigmatic tape which combines noise, pleasant guitar playing, extensive found sounds (a rendition of "Silent Night", for example) and a heavy beat to create a wonderfully listenable audio collage. The song titles ("Veni Creator Spiritus", "Kristallnacht") indicate some erudition, but basically, the music is the message here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ACOUSTIC MEDICINE, "Prayers Go Out" ($10 from PO Box 1082, Ojai, CA 93023): Sweetly pleasant music that ranges from folk to something with a more Latin beat. Instrumentation similarly varies, with oboe and cello on one track and congas and bongos on another. There's a very spiritual tone to these songs which the titles suggest: "Medicine Wheel", "The Sky and the Mountain", "Spirit Flying in the Sky", and of course the title cut. Puts me in the mind of gently rolling hills and scrub oaks. (T/MG)

★★★★★

AGNOSTIC FRONT, "Live At CBGB" (In-Effect Records, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): Whatever else you say about these guys (and a lot of critics dismiss or revile them for alleged fascism, though they seem to me to be just firm believers in law'n'order) they're not using the fast pace of hardcore to cover up any music failings. Agnostic Front plows through the audience in this gig with their aggressive music, and if they get a bit sappy at times (like reciting the Pledge of Allegiance) it doesn't detract from the beauty of their execution. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE A.G.'S, "Bryan's Song" b/w "The Pogey Song" & "Don't Need Anyone" (Ringing Ear Records, PO Box 1073, Durham, NC 03824): Three short songs from a band that shows some promise. Musically they're a standard four-piece with a fairly tight rock sound. Lyrically they range from thoughtful to silly and mildly offensive, in a wide-open just having fun manner. Best bet: the catchy "Pogey Song", delivered with verve (though without explanation). (45/MG)

★★★★★

HEIDI ALLEN, demo tape (Contact Heidi at 813-343-8759): Liquid, flowing synthesizer music with a very emotional feel to it — indeed one song, "Blast Emotion", looks at the effects of too much living on the mind. The final cut, "Bells", is my favorite, a very melodious piece. Heidi is looking for local musicians (she's in St. Petersburg, Florida) to form an all-originals band and help refine this stuff. (T/MG)

★★★★★

G.G. ALLIN "G.G. Allin w/ Bloody Mess and the Skabs" ($5 from Bloody F. Mess, 5523 Monticello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): A bootleg recording of G.G. and these local guys from Peoria. More of the usual gutter rock/trash from G.G., this time with a local Peoria band that doesn't add too much to what G.G. usually does. The cover of "Blitzkrieg Bop" is the highlight of this short six song cassette. G.G.'s latest threat is to kill himself on stage in 1990. These guys should hope that he doesn't take cassette bootleggers and other assorted types with him. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

AMERICAN MUSIC CLUB, "California" (Grifter/Frontier, PO Box 22, Sun Valley, CA 91353): Reaches into the heart of what makes guitar rock pop tick and manages to effectively pull some strings. When it works it's energy, swing, twang and hellfire hotsauce craziness. When it doesn't (on a few of the slower tracks) it becomes maple syrup sludge, sweet and thick and cloying right before it's time to toss the bottle and buy a new one. Fortunately there aren't too many of those to be found here. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

ANTHROPOPHOBIA, "Get Up To Date" ($3 from Frank Phobia, 254 S. 15th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102): Crisp rock that throws in some metallic and some punk tactics but stays with a pretty mainstream hard rock strategy. Lots of power in the guitar and bass lead the assault, together with Frank's own sometimes-rude vocals and lyrics. Pretty good stuff, the equal of a lot of vinyl we get. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ANTISEEN, "Blood of Freaks" (Ajax Records, PO Box 146882, Chicago, IL 60614): Gravel-voiced gruesome punk rock from people with a rather ugly view of the world. They deliver a sonic assault over such themes as "I Wish I Had Killed You When I Had the Chance" and "Hippie Punk" (making lots of fun of all peaceful types and suggesting they go back to Russia or get a job). They're apparently pissed off at the current trends in punk and demand a return to the old days of pure ugly noise. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

ANY OF SEVERAL WEASELS, "Rumpus Ruckus/Enough" ($6 from Ermine Music, 61-A Franklin St., East Rockaway, NY 11518): Music that doesn't pay a whole lot of attention to conventional categories, but lurks somewhere in the nexus of garage rock, punk, and madcap experimentalism. Deliberately sloppy and a bit hasty sounding, and difficult to fit into a mental frame of reference, but still rather interesting. Very aggressive stuff. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ARCANE DEVICE, "DM2" (Generations Unlimited, 199 Strathmore #5, Brighton, MA 02135-5210): Eerie, tortured, *bent* electronic sounds in aural shapes and abstract notions. Like some 2001 progeny attempting to perform a space-concert of sound and thought. (T/CS)

★★★★★

ARCANE DEVICE, "Engines of Myth" ($12 from D. Myers, 228 Bleecker St. #8, New York, NY 10014): "Improvisations for feedback within/between time delay electronics, recorded live to tape", with a few tapes massaged by sampling or computer. On a few tracks this results in positively attractive music, demonstrating a sense of freedom by using pure sounds to compose with. Most of the record, though, stands as a bit of a failure, more tedious than not. Nifty three-color cover that looks hand screened. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BAD BRAINS, "Attitude (The ROIR Sessions)" (In-Effect, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): Superb speedcore-reggae crossover. At first this sounds like a novelty mix, with superfast music and Rasta lyrics. Then they throw in a classic reggae cut like "I Love I Jah" or "Leaving Babylon" and you realize they have talent in both genres. This is a re-release of what was previously on tape only, so it's a bit short for a CD, but still definitely worthwhile. Grows on you. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

DON BAKER, "Cuts From the Psychic Barber" ($4 from PO Box 61387, Seattle, WA 98121): Exactly what the name implies is what's to be found here: snippets and shortakes on sound, noise and music, mostly electronic stuff. Nothing lasts long enough to really develop, which has both positive and negative points to it: on the one hand things keep moving to stimulate your interest, on the other hand it gets hard to differentiate what's what. Strange in its own little way, but kind of neat. (T/CS)

★★★★★

DON BAKER, "Heetseekers" ($4 from PO Box 61387, Seattle, WA 98121): Previously released as an accompaniment to **EULIPIAN** magazine, but now available on its own. Don combines rock sensibilities and ominous processed vocals with a bank of synthesizers to create a cool, clean techno-muzik. It rings of the 1990's and beyond, with the feel of something only the future will understand. Comes with a neat little lyric booklet. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BATFISH, "Bathfish Brew" (GWR Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Rather bombastic rock in the best guitar-slinging tradition. Their main claim to fame is the presence of Simon Detroit, ex-March Violets, on lead vocals. Most of this is moderately interesting but unexceptional — but they have one fantastic track: "Another One Bites The Dust (Purple Haze Mix)", a Jimi Hendrix meets Queen quasi-metallic psychedelic epic. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BAT LENNY, "March of the Small Ones" (Tim Id Productions, PO Box 10552, St. Paul, MN 55110): A cassette of mixed offerings from a tehnically-oriented quartet of guys. With synths and tapes and guitars and an Amiga computer they compose music which sounds more pop than experimental, mellowing into near-jazz riffs at times. It's nice background, and seems best where it sticks to a groove rather than bringing in ambient noise, as it does on a track or two. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ADRIAN BELEW, "Mr. Music Head" (Atlantic, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): I know that if I give this a bad review hordes of Belewphiles will descend upon my house and wreak havoc. Fortunately for me, I rather liked this. Belew has been around long enough to ignore conventions, and if an innovative guitarist wants to produce something that ranges from big band to Beatles in its sound range, I say good for him. This is a tape I can play without the neighbors pouring gasoline around the foundations, and as technically proficient as it is pleasant. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JOHN M. BENNETT, "Drill" ($5 from Luna Bisonte Productions, 137 Leland Avenue, Columbus OH 43214): Something about the way Bennett reads on this tape gives me this vision of an insane person reciting poetry loudly in a public bathroom. It's very complex stuff involving body parts, clothing, everyday life, and several geometric abstractions. Surreal in a way, but decidedly different. A must for long-time readers, just so you can hear the man speak it. (T/pj)

★★★★★

JERRY BENZ, "Something for Everybody...you Jackass!" (Native Parade, 783 Woodland Ave., Plainfield, NJ 07062): Polished rock that draws on a variety of styles while staying in a clear groove. The songs are a bit on the oddball side, ranging from "Dishland" to "Fireants of Love" to "Old Bureau Leaning on 3 Legs". But don't let their curious texts bother you; sit back and enjoy the powerful music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JAKE BERRY, "Diaspora: Four Sonic Movements" ($4 from Plutonium Press, PO Box 61564, Phoenix, AZ 85082): Droning minor-key pieces that will ease you down the slope into a long night of hysteria if you're not careful. Jake combines piano, electronics, static and distorted vocals into heavily-textured chunks of sound that rage eerily up and down your spine. Highly experimental but still pretty structured. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BHOPAL STIFFS "E.P.A." (Roadkill Records, P.O. Box 37, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-0037): The last record I reviewed from this pile mainly because I couldn't get myself to put it on the platter before anything else. It's not terrible, it's just horribly average rock/punk with average lyrics. Maybe it's just that I'm turned off by lyric sheets that say "chorus 2x" too many times. (EP/KJ)

★★★★★

BIKERMUTT, "Uglycity" ($6 from C&O Records, PO Box 1023, Baltimore, MD 21203): Pretty close to antimusic for the most part, with dissonant instruments, distorted vocals, feedback, and industrial pounding. On a few cuts a sort of poppy sound shows through briefly before going down for the count. An abrasive, abusive record that seems to lack focus. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE BIRDHOUSE, "Meglamania" ($8.99 from Link Records, 277 Church St. 3rd Fl., New York, NY 10013): Based in England, this young band has a powerful sound with international appeal. It's got the energy of rock, some of the hard edges of punk, and a lot of musicianship rolled up in songs that get the blood moving and the pulse speeding. Some of the tunes, as with "Brixton's Burnin", are overtly political, but for the most part, the message is in the music itself. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ELVIN BISHOP, "Big Fun" (Alligator Records, PO Box 60234, Chicago, IL 60660): Fun. Fun. And more fun. That's really the only way to explain what it is you're listening to when you put Elvin Bishop on the turntable. To try and explain in detail what makes his brand of guitar rock blues special would take up the rest of this issue. A consummate musician, Bishop and his band smoke through the numbers. Rousing, footstomping, bring a smile to your face...fun. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

MARTIN BISI, "Creole Mass" ($$7.50 from New Alliance Records, PO Box 1389, Lawndale, CA 90260): Another unusual release from New Alliance, which is doing a lot to stretch the boundaries of underground music. Martin takes the spirit and sound of traditional South American music and mixes it with touches from his modern production work on rock and rap music. Musicians like Fred Frith and Lee Ranaldo have a hand in this, and the net result is a haunting album that can't be pinned down ethnically but is decidedly different from anything else on the market. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

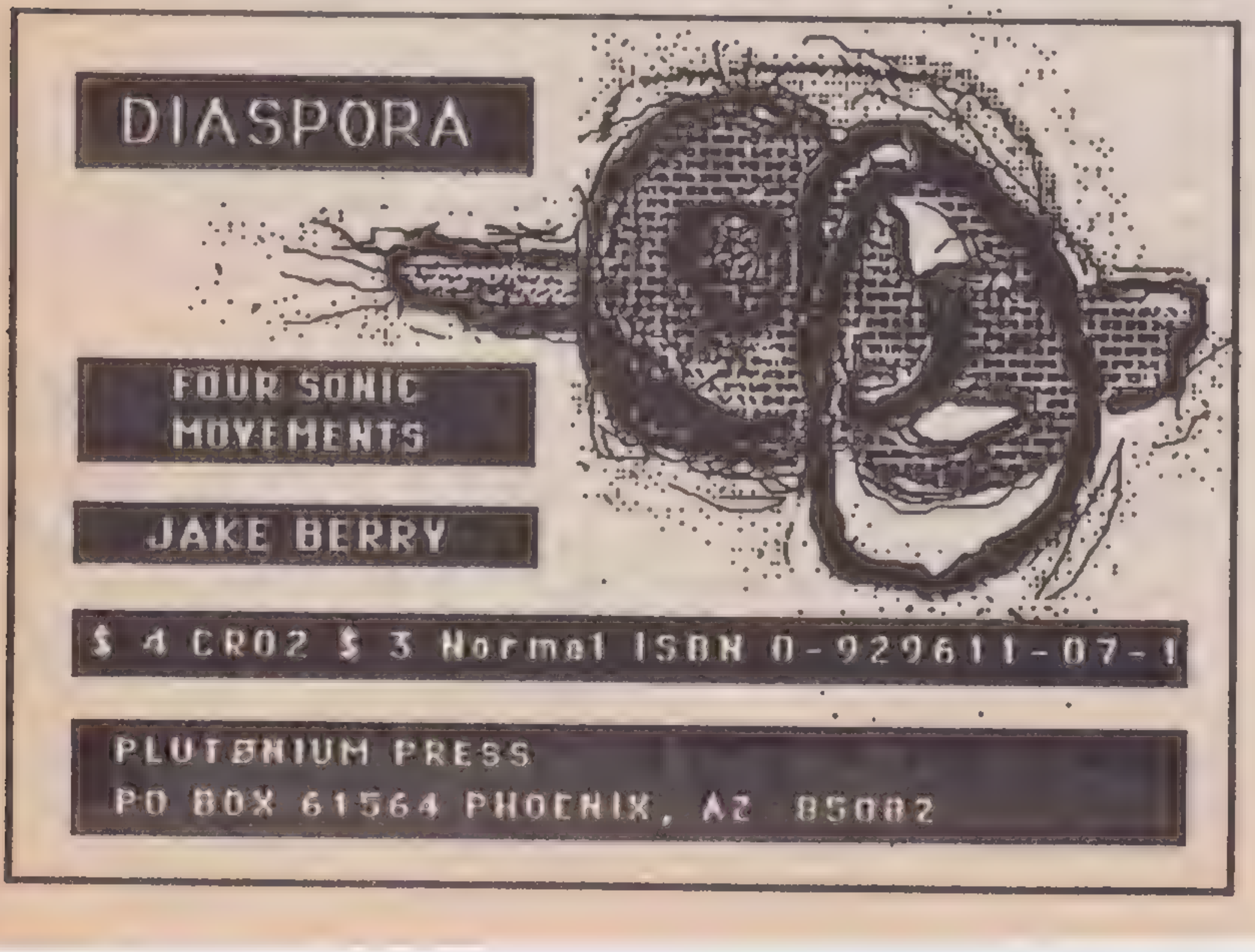
BITE THE WAX TADPOLE, "Between You, Me, and the Lamprey" (Sound of Pig Music, 28 Bellingham Ln. Great Neck, NY 11231): A wild and wooly trip through the bizarre minds and cool instrumentals of Mark Dery and Darren Smith. The tape has a split personality: Side A features short songs with bizarre twists, like "Let Everything Equal Zero", an authoritarian assault on childraising, or "The Little Man", who does damned near everything. Side B is improvised, without overdubs, and pits the two against half a dozen bizarre instruments to create a live experience with few peers. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BLIND APPROACH, "New Age" ($3.50 from Chip Pearson, PO Box 50139, St. Paul, MN 55105): Traditionally-structured hardcore (has "mosh part" made it into the dictionaries yet?) with somewaht metallic lead guitar playing. Lyrically they fall into the "different and proud" mode of things, writing in an anthemic mode. The title song is sure to make the trendy crystal people puke on their shoes. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

BLOODY MESS & THE SKABS, self-titled ($4 *CASH* from Bloody F. Mess, 5523 Montello Dr., Peoria, IL 61614): A demo tape (but soon to be an EP) of "skabrock", which is (to say the least) rather beyond the pale. Probably the most reasonable tune here is "Biker Punks From Hell"; down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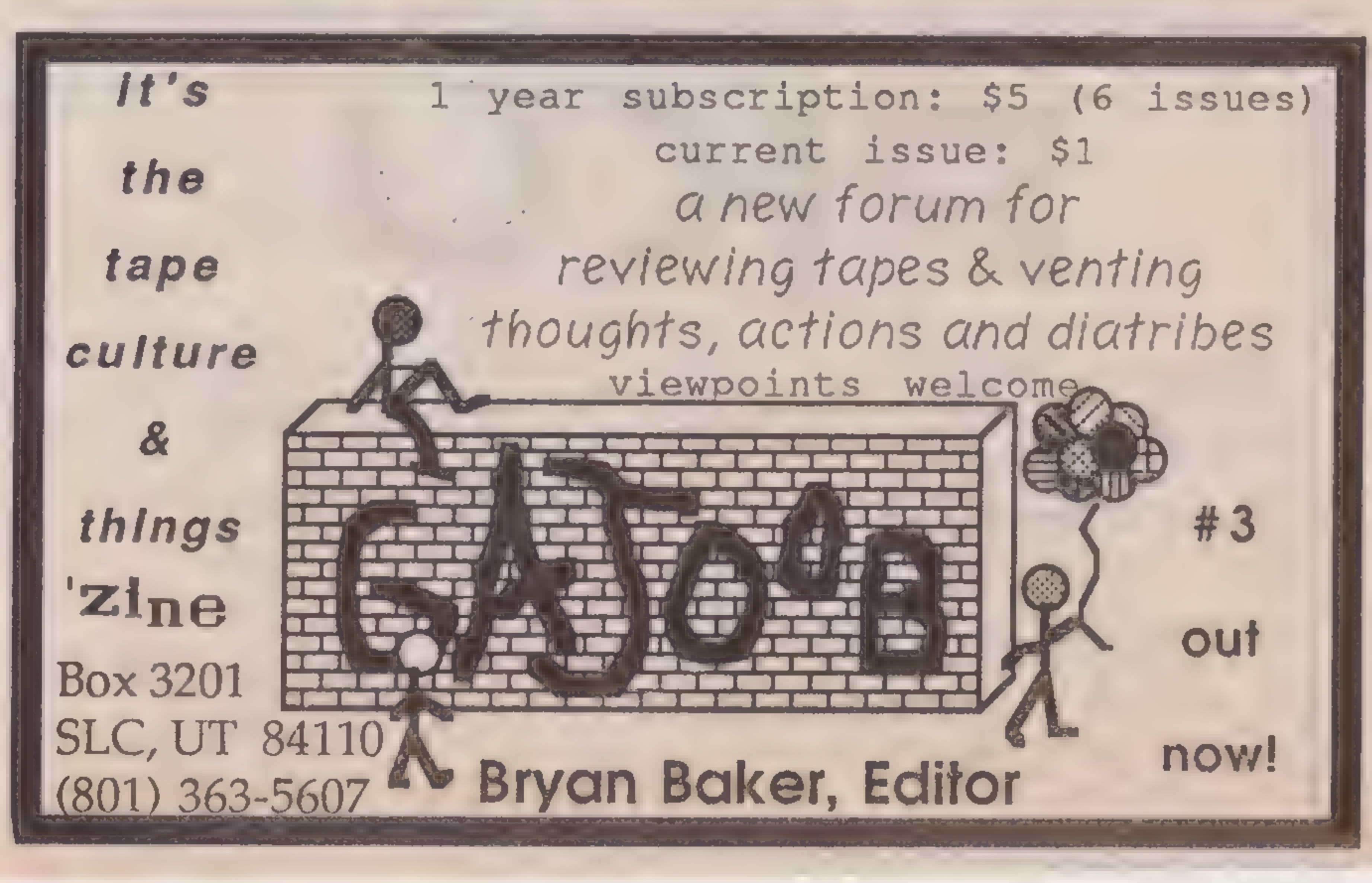
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at the other end of the line there's "Cigarette On the Clit", sure to upset anyone even vaguely feminist. The music is pure punk, loaded with bombastic guitar and plenty of punch to the vocals. Lyric sheet included. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BLUE RODEO, "Diamond Mine" (Atlantic Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): Canadian roots rock that has a few country/rockabilly tinges to it; the sound of wide open spaces and gritty lyrics. They bounce along through traditional-seeming numbers like "Girl of Mine" as well as more curious entries like "The Ballad of the Dime Store Grease and the Blonde Mona Lisa". Pleasant to listen to, though a lot mellower than most of what's coming out in the underground these days. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BOMB, "To Elvis...In Hell" (Michael Dean, PO Box 1210, San Francisco, CA 94101): Psychedelic punk with a nasty sense of humor, starting out with Cathlolic Girls and progressing to serious LSD intoxication. The music is intense and raw-edged, though definitely talented; it just lacks self-defeating studio polish. Fun to crank up if you don't mind being a wee bit socially incorrect. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

BONGWATER, "You Don't Love Me Yet" b/w "The Porpoise Song"" (Shimmy-Disc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10116): Bongwater continues their destruction of music by other artists on this release, though with a slower, more thoughtful texture than they used on most of the "Double Bummer" LP set. This time around it's Roky Erickson up for a beating on the A side and Carol King on the reverse, complete with porpoise noises and a weird James Bond vocal vignette to top things off. (45/MG)

★★★★★

BREAKDOWN, "Venture Outta Limits" ($3.50 from PO Box 641, Saratoga, CA 95071): They describe themselves as "up-tempo surf/punk & roll with a few other influences" and that's close enough. The thirteen songs here are powerful, well-recorded and well-performed, with a selection of hard-driving beats and guitar licks that holds up well. Definitely a cut above most demo tapes I hear, and modern without abandoning traditional rock roots. (T/MG)

★★★★★

VALAREE BROCK, "Little Heart" (Hit City Records, PO Box 64895, Baton Rouge, LA 70896): I suspect there's a whole world of music fanzine writers never hear from — people who desperately want to make a commercial hit and dream of themselves as recording stars. This record, with AM and FM versions on its two sides, seems to have surfaced from that world: a simple song with more strings on the FM side and more drums on the AM side and wistful motherly lyrics. Unfortunately Brock's voice is basically flat, and I don't expect you'll ever actually hear this on the radio. (45/MG)

★★★★★

BROTHER D and **SILVER FOX**, "Up Against the Beast" ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): Finely-produced rap/reggae music. Brother D. is a politically-astute guy who gets some deep analysis into his songs, making it look almost easy. Silver Fox is Jamaican, and his heavy-duty Rasta argot makes his tracks less accessible to outsiders. Topnotch work in both cases combines to make this both listenable and inspirational. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE BUCK PETS, self-titled (Island Records, 14 E. Fourth St., New York, NY 10012): It's a good thing my amp isn't any more powerful or the ceiling would have been falling in by the end of "Perfect", a number which seductively urges more volume by delivering and incredible guitar nightmare blast. This traditional four-piece plays straight-up rock and roll, concentrating on music rather than image or gimmick. It's sort of refreshing to hear them go, and this tape captures well the live feel of intense jamming. Go for it. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE BUSH TETRAS, "Better Late Than Never" ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): One of the things ROIR does best is provide archival recordings, and this is a splendid example. It consists of the EPs and unreleased studio recordings of this band, digitally remastered and with sensible commentary. The Bush Tetras were a quirky, moody outfit, with a sort of tribal dance rhythm, aggressive guitars, horns and strangely styled vicals from Cynthia Sley. Worth a listen, and definitely danceable. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

CHRIS CAGGIANO, "Dystopian Visions" ($2 from Lost Minute Productions, 1737 Grove St. #1, Ridgewood, NY 11385): Really downer poems and songs about things like nuclear war and getting shot after enlisting in the Army. It comes with a complete lyric booklet, which is good, because this is just about the worst recording job I have ever heard: distorted, full of background noise, apparently done with a cheap condenser mike. Treat it as a poetry chapbook and use the tape for something else. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CAMERA READY, "Extended Play" (Soft Records, 352 Orms St., Providence, RI 02903): Catchy guitar-driven new wave rock music that reminded me lightly of the Ramones crossed with David Bowie and early REM. Side 1 was a little too predictable, but side 2 made up for it. (EP/CS)

★★★★★

CANCEROUS GROWTH, "One For the Pod" ($5 from XKurzhen Sound, Michael Jackson, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): A mail collaboration between Michael and Chris Phonney from Harsh Reality and sundry strange noise combos. The A side here is full of eerie drawn-out sounds, with some acoustic work layered in among the electronics. The B side adds in tape loops from what sound like bad movies but are in some cases serious politics. Intriguing but I'm not sure how well it will hold up in the long run. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CARGO OF DESPAIR, self-titled ($2 from Dumb Artists Collective, 172 Chestnut St. #209, Springfield, MA 01103): Quirky pop music that ranges from conceptual neo-stupidity to satirical silliness (as on "Flipper", a homage to a dolphin spoiled by success. Instruments range from drum machine to scratch to synthesizer to more traditional guitars and drums. A playful record. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

CATS LAUGHING, self-titled ($7.50 from SteelDragon Press, PO Box 7253, Powderhorn Stn., Minneapolis, MN 55407): A nice collection of eccentric music. This five-piece has its roots in places as diverse as folk, blues, and psychedelic rock, and the end result is a flavorful bouncing music with expressive vocals shared by three of the members. Check out the folky "Tellers of Tales", the wistful "Signal to Noise" or the "Half-Dollar Blues" — heck, check out the whole tape! Recommended. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CATTLEPROD, "Secretly Happy" (Community 3, 416 E. 3rd St., New York, NY 10009): The vocals, coupled with the delivery and attitude, reminded me of The Clash in their mid-career days crossed with an offbeat approach: one part hyperfunk, one part surreal indifference, and one part anything goes influences. It makes for an odd mixture, but it works. The first go round on the turntable doesn't even begin to prepare you for what's yielded up in subsequent runs. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

THE CAUSE, "Kids With a Cause" ($3 & 2 stamps from 8 Bloomfield Dr., Mt. Holly, NJ 08060): Hard-edged and rabbit-punching rock with punk vocals but very tight music. The lyrics are mostly pretty downbeat, about being trapped in an unfair world, losing love, and alienation from pretty much everything. A solid demo effort. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CHARLATANS, "Drive! He Said" (Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Electronic rock, heavy on the rhythms and professedly influenced by mid-80s industrial work. It takes a while to get into a groove, but once it pushes you over the initial hump of resistance to noise, it's actually soothing in an odd sort of way. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RHYS CHATHAM, "Die Donnergotter" (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): Music with a classical feel — long movements, slow development, majestic composition — but rock nuances and instrumentation. The title cut, for example (which takes up a whole side of the record) is scored for 6 electric guitars, electric bass, and drums. This music works very well, somehow making soothing combinations out of a mass of dangerously loud instruments. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CICCONE YOUTH, "The Whitey Album" (Blast First, 262 Mott St. #324, New York, NY 10012): This is what happens when you get big and important — you go into the studio and record a joke album. This group is mostly the members of Sonic Youth, with a bit of help from Mike Watt (live) and Madonna (recorded). They do silly covers (including "Addicted to Love" and 45 seconds of silence from John Cage), in-jokes ("Moby Dik") and some original madness ("Tuff Titty Rap"). Rather self-indulgent, and probably most enjoyable to people that follow indie music closely. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

JEFF CLAYTON AND THE SLIMEGOATS, self-titled (($3 from Death Train Music, Route 3 Box 239E, New London, NC 28127): At last, someone with poor enough taste to cover a GG Allin tune ("Cock on the Loose" — one of the milder numbers in GG's repertoire). The music here is high bass garage punk, with vocals that sound like Jeff's been gargling with Drano. Lots of energy, not much social correctness. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

THE BUD COLLINS TRIO, "Kongsoontomcharden" (50 Thompson Rd., North Franklin, CT 06254): Beautifully-produced and amazingly lush and rich crossover/fusion music. The trio (actually five guys, none named "Bud") play a mix of rock, pop, jazz, reggae and psychedelia (and maybe a few other genres) that focuses on long jams that never bore. Titles and lyrics tend to be playful, and the whole has an innovative feel that's seldom equaled in self-produced tapes. These folks will go far. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE BUD COLLINS TRIO, "Watching Channel Zero" (50 Thompson Rd., North Franklin, CT 06254): Well presented music that criss-crosses between new age, lounge and contemporary light jazz, with a tiny bit of guitar pop skirting the edges. The songs are arranged well and the material is pretty good. (T/CS)

★★★★★

COL. TOM AND THE EPSTEIN BROS., "Play Guitar With the Epstein Bros." ($5 from Bill Weita, PO Box 257, Kent, OH 44240): These guys continue to crank out garage rock at a nearly alarming pace. As the title suggests, this particular tape is mostly guitar noodling, from quick blasts of sound to extended riffs boring into your skull. Interesting background music, though recorded at an over-high level (unless you happen to be a distortion fan, of course). (T/MG)

★★★★★

CONE OF SILENCE, demo tape (2445 Rinconia Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90068): A four-song preview of a self-produced cassette — the band is now shopping for an indie label. They play straightahead rock with some country touches and shared vocals between Debbie Friedl and one of the male members of the group. I especially like the moody "Hanging by a Thread". Worth keeping an ear out for. (T/MG)

★★★★★

COWTOWN, "Swampland in Heaven" (PO Box 9485, Denver, CO 80209): The air in Denver must be getting thinner, or else it's the guest presence of Little Fyodor here...this is a strange tape indeed. The title cut as well as ones like "I Want to be a Yuppie" and "Denver (Deffer 'n Duller)" display a fine sense of cynicism about modern life. These are complimented by annoying covers of things like "Who'll Stop the Rain?" and "Mr. Tambourine Man". Music to drill teeth by. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CRAAFT, self-titled (RCA Records, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036): Not-too-tough German metal. RCA puts them in the tradition of Helloween and the Scorpions, but for some reason they remind me more of Boston. Lots of bombast and emotion here, harmonies over muted guitars and smooth piano, and other slick touches you don't find on most indie metal albums. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

CRIPPLED HIPPO, "Free I-6" (85¢ postage from Charlie Nash, PO Box 6013, E. Lansing, MI 48826): Crippled Hippo is sort of minimalist music from Charlie Nash and Carol Schneck, featuring percussion and familiar melodies with modern words. It's rather charming while socially conscious. The B side here is a poetry reading, with Charlie, Carol, Steve Keena and Denise Dee, featuring lots of fine, close to the bone works. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CRO-MAGS, "Best Wishes" (Profile Records, 740 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): Polished hardcore-meets-metal sound and lots of still-youthful energy fuel this album, noisy without being amateurish. The lyrics rage over various things, from "Death Camps" (the overworked metaphor applies to slaughterhouses this time around, rather than abortion clinics) to "Age of Quarrel" (which is down on the modern age generally, including science, pollution, and violence). Ear-ringing anthemic stuff. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE CROWD, "Big Fish Stories" (Flipside Records, PO Box 363, Whittier, CA 90608): About the hardest mellow rock I've heard, loaded with groovy funky touches but still tense enough to blast out. Lyrically this is hot stuff too, with "Executive Life" and "Faster then You", among others, pointing at the futility of modern life and sniggering about it. Other topics range from sharing Kool-Aid with Jim Jones to the poor old Trix rabbit..."Just goes to show you that the world is shit." (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DANNY, "Deesco for dee Cozmeek Keeds" (Leela Rasa Services, PO box 1191, Stowe, VT 05672): More slice-and-dice sixties audio collage. Danny has taken upbeat messages from sources as diverse as the Beatles and the Jackson 5 and spliced them into one longish song with multiple levels of meaning. This isn't likely to go bigtime, since it certainly exceeds the limits of "fair use", but can be interesting to mull over while it lasts. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DEAD OSWALDS, "Not Sgt. Pepper" ($5 from Radio Zero, PO Box 5983, Providence, RI 02903): A techno-pop follow-on to the famous Beatles album. Tracks here have familiar titles but different concepts: "When I'm Sixty-Four" is a song of beery regrets, while "Being For the Benefit of Mr. Kite" is about a lover leaving for someone else. The leadoff track, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Heart's Club Band", is a homage of sorts to growing up with the Beatles music. Sound degenerates from programmed to cheesy at points, but the lyrics are intriguing and things get no worse than annoying anywhere on the tape. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DEAFCON, "The Penis Roulette Sampler" (C-60 high-bias or metal tape & 4 25¢ stamps from 226 Eckford St., Brooklyn, NY 11222): 7 songs from this eerie gloom somewhat metallic band, covering a five year period of their growth. Most of it was recorded without rehearsal, some live on radio, and these improv instrumentals work quite well. Worth sampling at this price. (T/MG)

★★★★★

HAZEL DEAN, "Always" (Capitol, 1750 N. Vine St., Hollywood, CA 90028): Remember Abba? Their canny way with pop hooks, soaring vocals and catchy refrains are all echoed here in Dean's approach to her music. A lively and sophisticated performer, her full-bodied vocals bolster the sweetly upbeat pop tunes presented on this release. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

DEBIELE EENHEID, self-titled ($4 from Rozenlaan 79a, 3051 LM, Rotterdam, HOLLAND): This record starts off as near-thrash hardcore with "Puke Out Your Brains" and ends on a jazzier note with "I'm so funky". The unifying sound, and the feature that makes this record quirkily appealing, is the tenor sax playing of Henk van Schaik. Fun stuff, with lyrics in English and a nice beat throughout. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

DHARMA BUMS, "Haywire" (Frontier Records, PO Box 22, Sun Valley, CA 91353): A reissue now that these guys are rapidly becoming critical darlings. They do manage a nice Neil Youngish rock sound with plenty of edginess, but it just doesn't carry through for me. By the end of the record I'm quite sick of whiney guitars and whiney vocals. Not bad, but too much the same. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE DICKIES, "Great Dictations: The Definitive Dickies Collection" (A&M Records, 595 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): A compilation of good stuff from the original A&M albums and British singles, featuring hits like the thrash versions of "Sounds of Silence" and "Nights in White Satin" plus originals like "Hideous" and "I'm OK, You're OK". However, collectors beware: all but one of these tracks ("Attack of the Mole Men") is also on the ROIR "We Aren't The World" cassette album; these versions are more polished, but there's a lot more music and I think more fun on the ROIR production. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE DICKIES, "Second Coming" (Enigma Records, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Well, this is a whole lot more commercial than the previous record — no superthrash, no covers of kiddie songs or Led Zep numbers. On the other hand the rock is still hard and fast, and the smartassness is still there. "Caligula" may have more Latin than any other rock song;

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"Monster Island" and "Magoomba" are fast paced and silly. A new sound, but not a bad one. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THOMAS DIMUZIO, "Delineation of Perspective" (Generations Unlimited, 199 Strathmore #5, Brighton, MA 02135-5210): Electronically altered music as part of the GU series of plainwrap releases. Dimuzio is interesting mainly for taking the human voice as another instrument; rather than lyrics, he mixes in vocal sounds along with the clamour of the synthesizers. Extremely dense pieces that build to earshattering amounts of noise. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DISARRAY, "1979-1986 Flaws Intact: The Smell of the Crowd" (Larry Boyd, 77 Plymouth St., Middleboro, MA 02346): A retrospective collection of recordings from the 7-year life of this underground/punk/rock band — 24 cuts in all. They range from silly ("Flies in My Room") to socially responsible ("Granny Wears a Diaper" and "War is Big Dicks") to just plain jamming ("Down at the Mall"). Lots of energy here, a definite evolution of style (I like the early cleaner cuts better, but that's just me). Better than a lot of bands that are still recording. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DISTURBED, "Disturbing the Peace" (Channel 83, PO Box 7303, Minneapo9lis, MN 55907): Heavy-duty killer metal out on vinyl at last after a couple of demo tapes. The format displays their raw power quite well, a wall of sound with decidedly deadly lyrics. Sometimes the thought is pretty simple (as on "What the Fuck?"), but the execution demands high-decibel appreciation. Abrasive but enjoyable. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE DREAM SMASHES, "Flys At The Picnic" (Dead Issue Records, PO Box 1645, Staten Island, NY 10314): Darkly-styled rock with psychedelic overtones — but it sounds like a pretty scary trip. Their music has an eerie tone to it, helped by tunes like "Love, Blood and Anger", "Edge of the World", and the title cut. Not run of the mill stuff by any means, and well worth a spin on your turntable when you're not in a sweetness and light mood. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

drivin' n' cryin', "Mystery Road" (Island Records, 14 E. Fourth St., New York, NY 10012): I don't know why they insist on the small letters, since these boys are anything but shy and retiring. They play a sort of folk metal, country ballads with an edge (exemplified by "Straight to Hell") and more traditional rockers. Lots of verve here and a good friendly feeling that comes through; I bet they're worth catching live. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

DUGAN & CAVITY, self-titled ($4 *CASH* from Geoff Dugan, 379 Milledge Ave. SE, Atlanta, GA 30312): On the A side of this tape, Geoff shows us what eerie sounds can be provoked from a guitar, building up a wall of noise that sounds decidedly out of the ordinary. On the flip, he's joined by some other folks with synthesizers and tapes in a live jam session, intensifying the experience and arriving at a catharsis of sound. Looks like it should be industrial but is much more accessible than that. (T/MG)

★★★★★

EBERLY BROTHERS, "Valeriana Officinalis" ($6 from Mumbles, PO Box 8312, Wichita, KS 66044): Bluesy rock from Doug and John Eberly, playing a stripped-down sound of guitars and keyboards, with low register voices, occasional drums and effects including radio static and other found sounds. Side A is a rehearsal session of originaos; side B is from a couple of live shows and features a number of cover tunes including "Dream Baby" and "House of the Rising Sun" as well as originals. (T/MG)

★★★★★

EEL O. and **MORTUARY ATTENDANT**, "Noise From Nowhere" (New Flesh, 2837 NW 66th St., Oklahoma City, OK 73116): A tape from two different noise artists with distinctly different approaches to the subject. Eel O. takes a noise or a thought and plays with it nearly endlessly, ringing slow changes on it as it develops almost organically. Mortuary Attendant, on the other hand, doesn't mess around; they blast the most raucous stuff imaginable through your loudspeakers, daring you to take it or leave it. Two poles of the field in one package. (T/MG)

★★★★★

EPSTEIN BROTHERS, "Flower Hammer" ($5 from PO Box 257, Kent, OH 44240): Semi-hypnotic acid-rock guitar, flower-power sort-of psychedelic industrial meanderings that kept me entertained through most of side one but began to drift away from me by side two. (T/CS)

★★★★★

EPSTEIN BROTHERS, "It's a Gas" ($5 from PO Box 257, Kent, OH 44240): Mostly guitar riffs, a combination of gently plucked and harshly distorted. Blase vocals are annoying, Some synth/mixer collage stuff on some songs, and generally sparse percussion. The lead guitar comes dangerously close to the imitation bagpipe sound of Big Country. (T/AG)

★★★★★

EVERY NEW DEAD GHOST, "Burn Burn" (Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Joy Division/Sisters of Mercy influenced, though it's not *quite* so down as all that. Lots of echo-y vocals, and jagged melodrama rock melodies; not bad at all. (T/CS)

★★★★★

M. FINNKRIEG, "down the poppy stairs of heaven" (Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A good example of building texture by introducing one repeated element at a time and creating a "layered" sound. Fairly minimal. Unidentified samplings and loops of German media charge in and out. The intrusive nature of the drum thang disqualifies it for the "ambient" category, making it something of a "synthetic industrial". Much slower but better than some Cabaret Voltaire I've heard. (T/AG)

★★★★★

M.FINNKRIEG, "Exit/Accidental" ($6 from Ulrich Heinke, Deaf Eye, Rathenower str, 46, 1000 Berlin 21, WEST GERMANY): Fast-paced deconstructed music that owes part of its existence to genres as diverse as rock, psychedelia, pop and industrial. The PR claims this as "comments on recent popular music styles" but by any measure this synthesizer and loop extravaganza serves to get the juices flowing. An incredible barrage of something with melodic traces and harsher overtones. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FIRE OF PROMETHEUS demo tape ($10 from M. Cusimano, PO Box 2565, Harvard Sq. Stn., Cambridge, MA 02238): Live poetry from the same folks who do the elusive **UNDERGROUND SURREALIST** magazine. It's sort of a cross between beatnik profundities and silly doggerel, recorded with a variety of noises and themes in the background. The level of seriousness may be judged by the recording of one segment that ended up on Dr. Demento. 20 poems, thirty minutes. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FIRE TOWN, "The Good Life" (Atlantic Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): I guess you could call this roots pop. Doug Erikson and Phil Davis trade off on guitar and vocal duties (with lots of harmonizing), which Butch Vig provides an unassuming drum track behind them. The songs are mostly of relationships that aren't quite working or requited, leadign to a moody feel overall — in contrast to the cheerful jangly guitar playing. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE FIXX, "Calm Animals" (RCA, 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036): Polished almost to a fault (and if there is one, the fault is bombast) but not very exciting music. The lyrical paean to the little folks is nice but sort of uninspired. I tried not to dislike this just because it's on a major label, but I'm afraid the overall production is just too safe to be interesting. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE FLAMING FUCKHEADS, "The Best and Worst of the Flaming Fuckheads" ($1 & a blank 90-minute tape from Chris Albee, 17 Ole Musket Rd., Cumberland Foreside, ME 04110): A collection of demos from a high school band that gradually developed a decent ballsy rock style. Unfortunately, they never shed their misogynistic roots, and the songs here are simply unacceptable to anyone concerned about human beings — though no doubt horny beer-drinking teenage males will find them hilarious. Also includes tracks from Minor Traffic Violations, a splinter group. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE FLAMING LIPS, "Telepathic Surgery" (Restless Records, 11362 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Their last album has been on my turntable constantly since its release, and this one is going to join it. The Flaming Lips play hard psychedelic music with wild lyrics and a pounding, pulsating energy that will get your blood boiling and your sinuses cleared out. Their lyrics are twisted and obscure, pulling things from suicide to surgery to Iggy Pop into packages of synchronicity, while the music is like dropping acid, seeing God, and accidentally pushing the volume knob on your stero all the way up. An epiphany of sound. (T/MG)

★★★★★

LEWIS FRANCIS "Information Gift" ($4 from New World Information Order, P.O. Box 174, Springfield, VA 22150): A solo debut tape of previously unreleased material, with the exception of "Permutations", which appeared on the "Back to the Grindstone" LP. "Touch Briefly", an interesting vocal and electronics piece, and "Do You Think That's True", an audio collage comprised of an urgent background beat and snippets recorded from a TV set, are the only two that caught my ear. Others, such as "Western Radio Message" and "Photos of Siberia" are mostly random electronic sounds, and while "Permutations" is pleasant enough to listen to, I find it lacking substance. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

NYLE FRANK, "Greatest Hits, Vol. III" ($8 from Centipede Productions, PO Box 121832, Nashville, TN 37212): This is a great place to start appreciating Nyle's music. Side A is a selection of his songs for Children, including the slightly snide "Who Needs More Bad Songs?" and the rhyme-laden "Jim Baboon and June Raccoon", which puts me in mind of Gene Lehman's LUNO educational tools. The B side is all instrumentals, including "Riding With Pachelbel", based on the latter's "Canon", and other modernized bits of classical music. Bouncy and joyful. (T/MG)

★★★★★

FULL FATHOM FIVE, "Four AM" (Link Records, 277 Church St., New York, NY 10013): Their "Paingiver" EP had me prepped for good things to come, and I wasn't disappointed here. For the most part what's here is great emphatic jangly guitar rock and roll with an edge ever so slightly softened by aspects of a lighter, new-wave dance touch to some of the vocals and songs. Very straightforward in its intent, with hints of still more potential ahead. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

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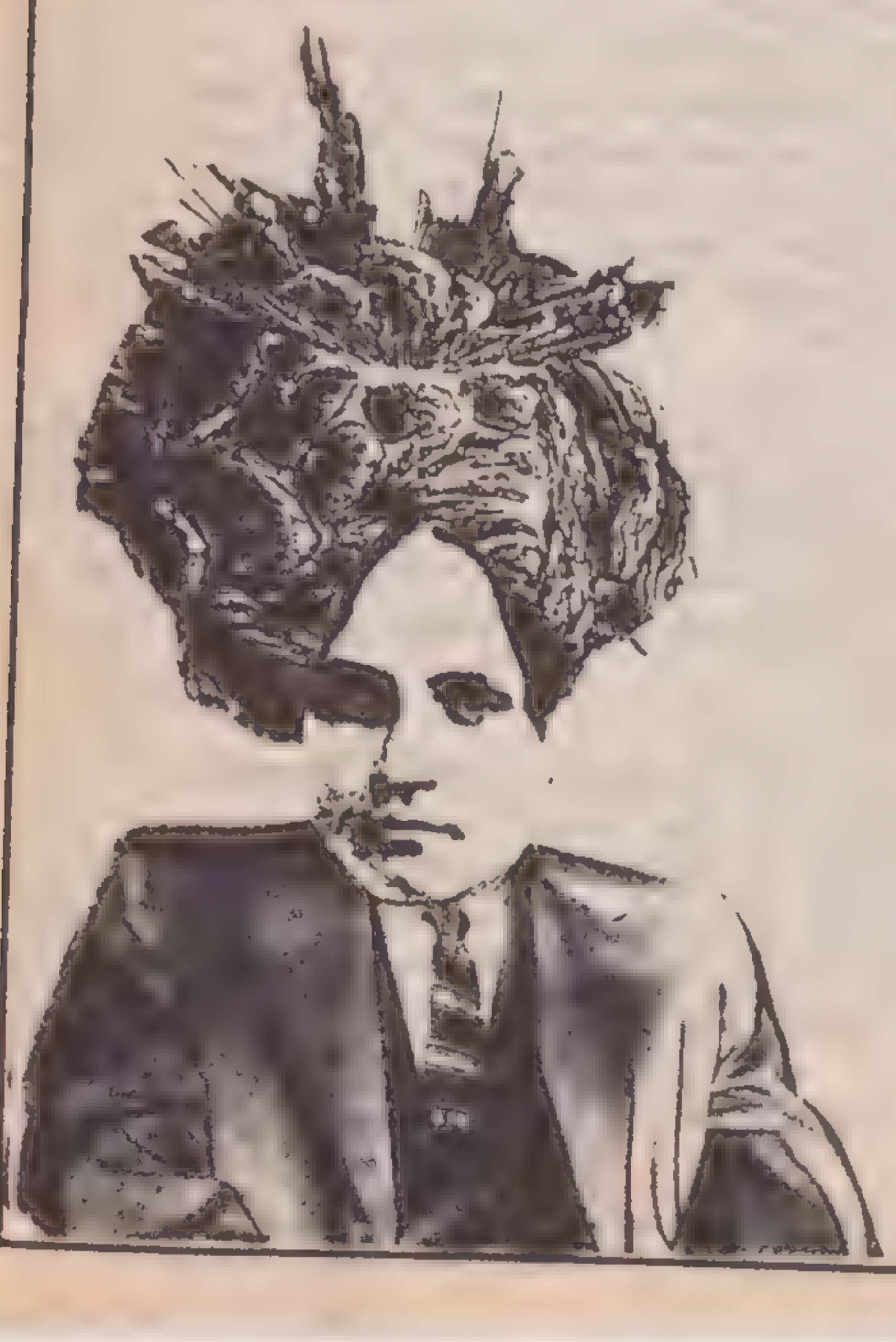

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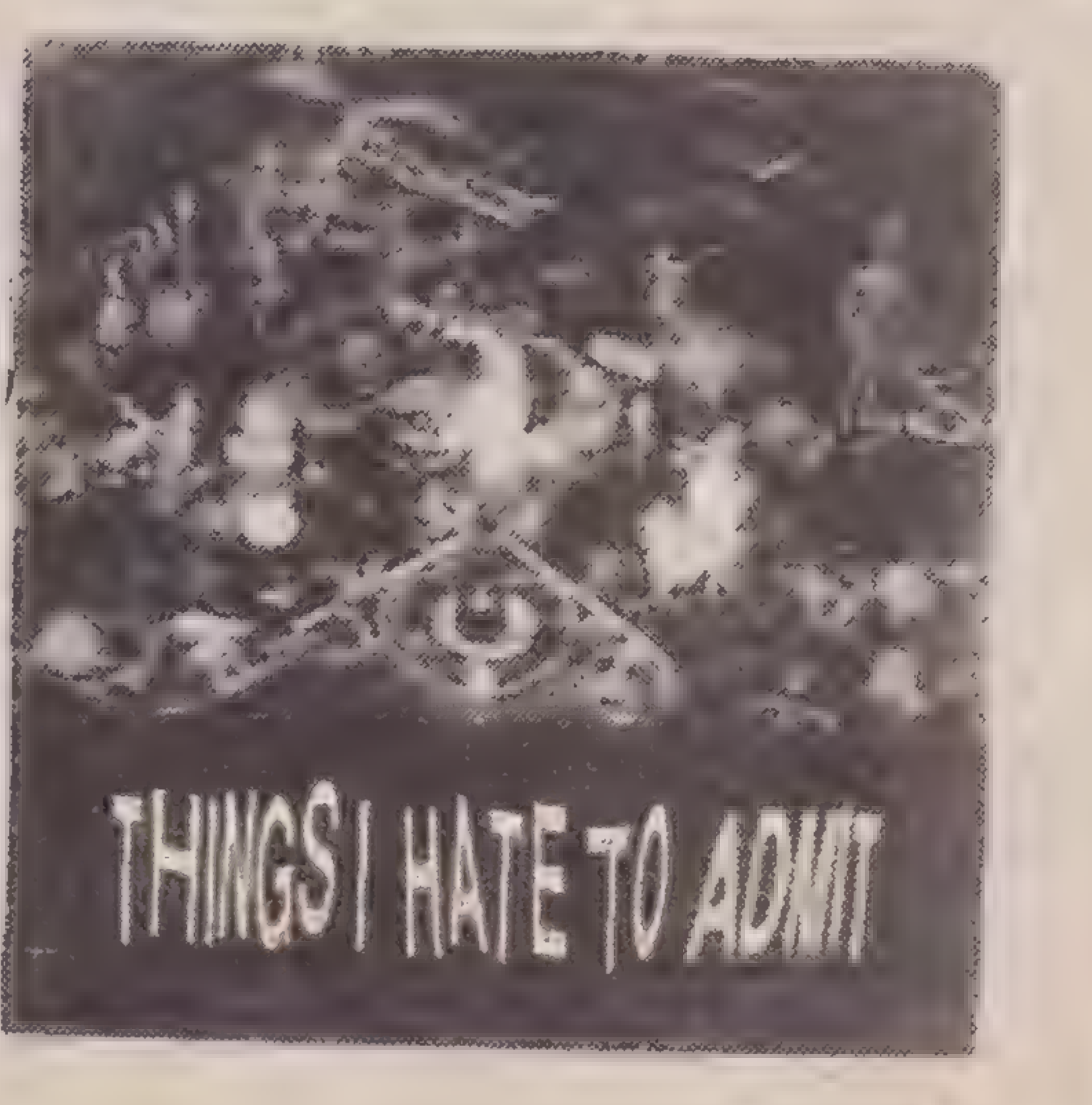
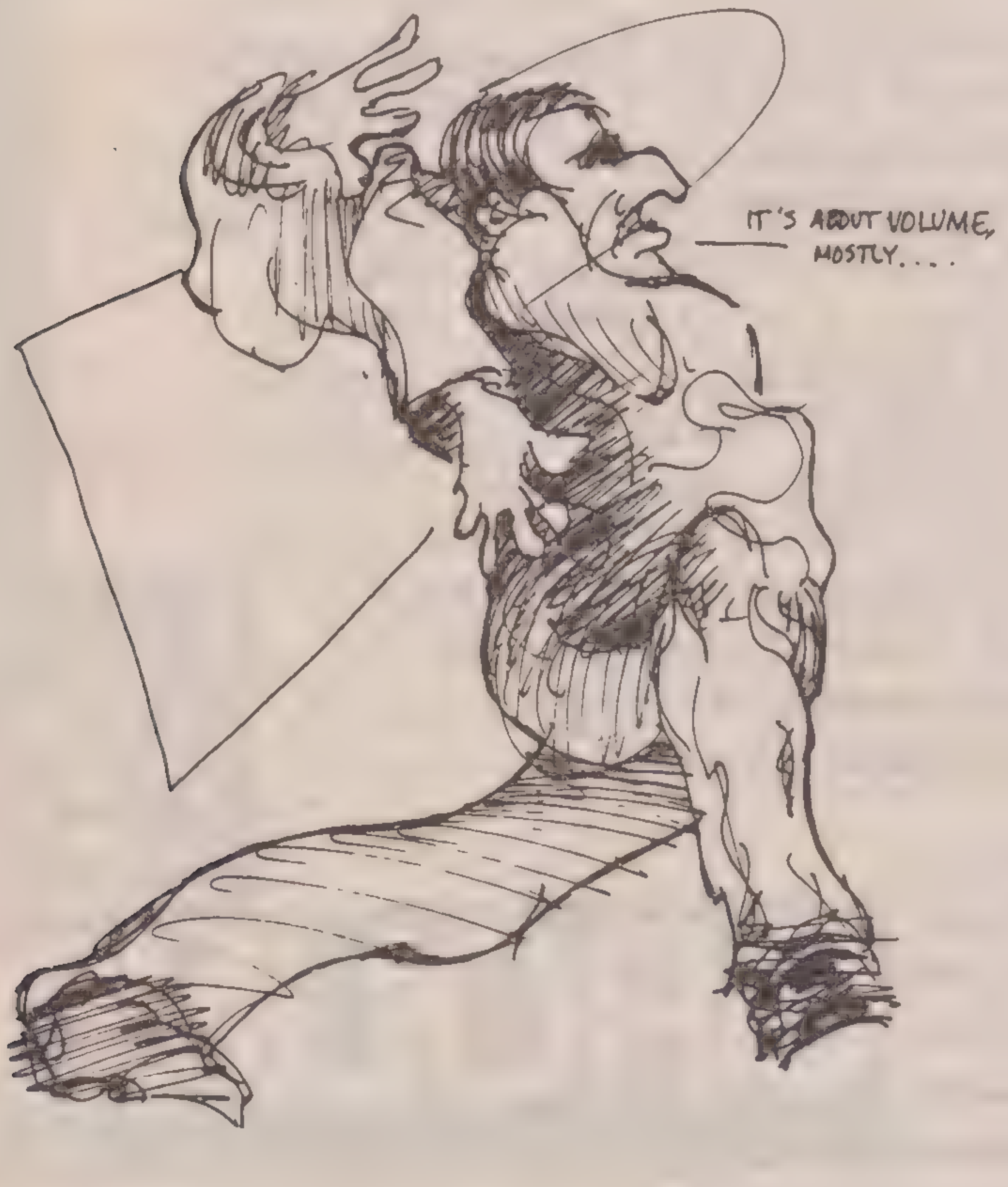

THINGS I HATE TO ADMIT

GANGREEN, "I 8 1 B 4 U" (Roadracer Records, 225 Lafayette St. #709, New York, NY 10012): Typical formulated skate rock with typical formulated skater topics ("I Hate Payin' My Rent", "Cum In U") and typical borderline metal guitar riffage. This could have been more interesting back in '81, before the world was so clotted with generic "just short of hardcore" rock. Music like this needs enthusiasm, and Gangreen knows their formula all to well..."insert guitar solo here". (LP/AG)


IT'S ABOUT VOLUME, MOSTLY....

★★★★★

GAYE BIKERS ON ACID, "Stewed to the Gills" (Caroline Records, 114 W. 26th St., New York, NY 10016): There's a lot of image to this band, starting with their name and proceeding to the insane publicity pix of them buried in fish, but there's also a lot of crazy awesome rock. They mess around with samplers and tributes and silly ideas like "Fairway to Heaven" and "Floydrix". Nonsense crossed with noise, an enjoyable combination. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

GIANT SAND, "The Love Songs" (Homestead Records, PO Box 570, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0570): Love songs for a tortured soul, a twisted mind. These love songs are screwball but authentic roots rock with Neil Young and Tom Waits influences. One of the finer bands of this genre, complete with tinny-sounding piano from Chris Cacavas, formerly of Green on Red. (LP/DW)

★★★★★

HEINER GOEBBELS & HEINER MULLER, "The Man in the Elevator" (ECM Records, 810 Seventh Ave., New York, NY 10019): Actually, a text by Muller, with manic improvisations by Goebbels gradually demolishing it into raw sounds. Musicians involved include Arto Lindsay and Fred Frith, and the end result is sort off jazzy but very aggressive, building to crescendoes that might more properly be called rackets. The disturbingly dystopian text is provided in the original German as well as English and French translations in the accompanying booklet, and German and English versions intermingle in the music. An attempt to destroy old listening habits and make room for new ones. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

GOLDEN CAGE OF RADIO #1 and #2 ($5 each from Post-Void Radio Theater, PO Box 19427, Minneapolis, MN 55419): Recreated radio broadcasts from the Little City in Space, orbiting 2500 miles above downtown Minneapolis. They play wild music, terrestrial and otherwise; investigate the news up there and down here, interview aliens (Al-gar, on #2, is a laconic but fascinating, um, being) and generally have a good time with this concept. Bizarre, funny, satirical and experimental by turns, the format works well and keeps the listener guessing what audio or journalistic disaster will come along next. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE GOOGOO DOLLS, "Jed" (Death Records, 18653 Ventura Blvd. #311, Tarzana, CA 91356): Happy metal punk pop garage music that reminds one strongly of the Ramones, Motorhead, and Guns N Roses. Not as raw as their last release; the band is definitely maturing, but not at the expense of their rowdy energy which makes up so much of their appeal. (T/CS)

★★★★★

JEFF GREGORY and **DOUG COREY**, "Delusions of Sanity" ($2 or a blank tape from Stuff, Inc., 3204 W. Chadwick Ln., Peoria, IL 61614): Guitar and keyboard instrumentals that grow wilder and wilder until they push the borders of music. Mostly a sort of experimental jam with touches of industrial to it and a few vocals mixed in but without lyrics. Very dark and depressing in places. (T/MG)

★★★★★

CLIVE GREGSON & CHRISTINE COLLISTER, "Mischief" (Rhino, 2225 Colorado Ave., Santa Monica, CA 90404): Electric folk music powered by a delicate sensitivity and pulsing fortitude. Reminiscent of early Fleetwood Mac (the songs on which Christine McVie sang). The songs are simple, but deep, quietly appealing with a definite *oomph*. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

GREEN ON RED, "Here Come The Snakes" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): More from the Paisley Underground, with the occasionally cynical lyrics and honkytonk bar music that makes the genre great. Green on Red aren't afraid to play ballads on this one, with "We Had it All" being a most moving son. But they also have some fun on numbers like "Rock and Roll Disease". Polished music that's fun to listen to and successfully combines punk stamina and country stylings. (T/MG)

★★★★★

REV. MARVYN GRIFFIN, "What a Wonderful God We Serve" b/w "If Any Body Can Heal Your Body, God Can" (Genesis Gospel Records, PO Box 64895, Baton Rouge, LA 70896): Gospel music is new to FF, but this seems pretty straightforward: mellow-voced singer, backup vocals from a couple of ladies and minimal organ-oriented instrumentation. My main reaction is that the songs go on for a lot longer than they should — it's quite tedious to sit all the way through this one. (T/MG)

★★★★★

GRISLY FICTION, "Scrape Face" (Community 3, 416 E. 13th St. #12, New York, NY 10009): These kids have a decidedly warped view of the world. Their slow-moving music, dangerous chords and backmasked and distorted vocals add up to a comedy soundtrack for a remake of *The Exorcist*. Mostly this sounds like jam sessions, with the singer spouting random curiosities, but it's none the less interesting for that. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS, "Children Are the Future" (Underdog Records, PO Box 14182, Chicago, IL 60614): Instantly likable, instantly accessible. The band has something to say, and they do so without any unnecessary grandstanding to dilute their message (this is a benefit single for children's organizations). Side one is lighter and more pop-oriented, while side two incorporates a fast-paced hardcore element into that first style. (EP/CS)

★★★★★

PETER HAMILL, "In a Foreign Town" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Melodic and very self-contained music from a man with a strong musical vision. There's pretty much no sops to commericalism here, only Peter doing everything from writing the songs to recording all the tracks to the mixing. It's an unassuming album, content to put forth a pleasant musical view without forcing it on the listener — but by the same token, not very flashy. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

HEALTH & BEAUTY, self-titled (Vibrating Egg, 309 Meigs St., Rochester, NY 14607): A low-frills recording of this "musical performance art ensemble", featuring wicked clarinet, violin, slide guitar, cello, various toys and drums, and ranting and raving vocals. The music is very abrasive, sort of like improvisational jazz reprogrammed by the CIA to brainwash captured spies. Anti-system lyrics/texts contribute to a revolutionary feeling. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RICHARD HELL, "R.I.P." ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): A 1975 to 1984 retrospective of one of the early punk songsmiths and singers. This tape features work from the Heartbreakers (with Johnny Thunders sharing the vocal chores) and the Voidoids, plus newer material from a session in New Orleans. Nice crisp tunes, lots of energy, but still strongly linked to earlier rock and without the assaultive cacophony of later punk releases. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JOE HENRY, "Murder of Crows" (A&M Records, 595 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): Sort of country pop. Joe is into very open, widely connotative lyrics and a clean sound with a mix of twang and piano or organ notes. Small-town hotel rooms would seem to be the appropriate venue for this stuff, not that it's not good, but it seems somehow almost private in its emotionality. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

HERMANOS GUZANOS, "The Worms Turn" (Darrell Draeger, PO Box 1425, Bakersfield, CA 93302): Draeger is the vocalist for this garage-ish 3-piece who do rock with some light touches of regional Mexican flavor. Suicide, paranoia, and life as crud occupy their lyrics, along with the occasional ballad. "How Can I Miss You?" takes off from the C&W genre to provide a broad parody that's quite amusing. There is life in central California after all. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ROBYN HITCHCOCK 'n' THE EGYPTIANS, "Queen Elvis" (A&M Records Publicity, 595 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): The album sticker proclaims Hitchcock to be the "#1 Post-Modern Artist", and while that's hype, it's hype in the right direction. I would call this post-pop: lush arrangements but with a core of simple tunes and honest singing. Lyrics range from surreal ("Veins of the Queen" — a voyage through the blood vessels of HRH Elizabeth) to disturbingly dark ("Knife"). Lots of little touches tend towards overproduction, but Hitchcock's disarmingly simple vocal style saves the day. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

HOMESTEAD GRAYS, "Big Hits" ($6 from Fresh Sounds, Inc., PO Box 36, Lawrence, KS 66044): Straight up roots rock that draws on a long tradition; every song opens with a riff that will remind you of something classic. Best bet: the hard-driving extended version of "285 Desoto", a car song with some brains to it. Energetic and well-done. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

HORNY GENIUS, "Man & Beast" (Pooter Records, PO Box 2731, Iowa City, IA 52240): Midwestern rock that features a pair of lead guitars (courtesy of Mike Turnis and Scott Siegling) battling it out, alternately grandstanding for the spotlight and working together. With less agressive band members on the bass and drums, they have a nice clean sound, poking its nose out of the garage but with a ways to go to stardom. Nice riffs on "If you could smell what I think". (EP/MG)

★★★★★

HOSTILE HEYDAY, "Wallow" (Tantrum Records, PO Box 657, Cambridge, MA 02238): Information about this band is nonexistent, but from the sound of it they took a bunch of folks from the street, handed them instruments, and forced them into the studio at gunpoint. The playing on these songs (and I use the term loosely) is so dissonant that it doesn't sound like they all have the same tune in mind, and the screaming of the vocalist doesn't help. Must be an acquired taste. (45/MG)

★★★★★

HOUSE OF LARGE SIZES, self-titled ($3 from Southeast Records, PO Box 3031, Iowa City, IA 52244): Relatively slow-tempo rock from this Midwestern three-piece. Dave Deibler's lead guitar sets the pace, although his vocals could use some work, while Barb Schilf's bass playing adds texture. The music is filled out with drums and backing vocals from Dave Berg. "40 Orange Cookies", an eerie bit of childhood, is probably the best track here. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

ICEPLANTS, "Happy Time at the Wow Club" (Small Tools Tradition, PO Box 8005, #239, Boulder, CO 80306-8005): Perky minimalist pop that eschews guitars in favor of piano and vocals. Really curious downer songs like "Poor Thing" (about attempted suicide) and "The Demon Rum" give way to the energetic closing cut, "Hanoi Jane", which the band really seems to get into — I wonder how many right-wing new wavers will ever get the chance to hear this? (EP/MG)

★★★★★

IF, BWANA/JOHN HUDAK, "Energy Plan" ($5 from XKurzhen Sound, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): Side one was misty and low key, comprised mostly of minimalistic repetitive notes set in a gray, ambient atmosphere. Side two picked up in its intensity calling to mind a primal atmosphere, with rushings and breathings and distorted vocals that called to mind a soundtrack for Blue Velvet or Altered Images (or National Geographic gone prehistoric on acid). (T/CS)

★★★★★

INDIGESTI, "Sguardo Realta" ($4 from BCT, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): Italian speedcore courtesy of Bad Compilation Tapes, a label which has preserved a great deal of early European punk. The sound quality on this, though obviously not pro, is decent; since it's a live performance the lack of polish doesn't matter too much. Lots of traditional punk arrangements, with thrash and mosh parts, and lyrics so fast that their language doesn't amtter. (T/MG)

★★★★★

INFAMOUS MENAGERIE, "Infernal Monastery" ($3 from PO Box 95345, Seattle, WA 98145-2435): Techno-death-music that combines elements of gloom with hints of industrial and vocals that are almost chanted or recited instead of sun. Their look is stark black and white, while the song title "Green Dreams Sleep Furiously" gives a hint of their approach to music — the elements of meaning ripped apart and wrapped in a coating of minor chords. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DUANE ISAACSON, "Jazz — Some Like it Hot!" (Heartland Music, PO Box 5591, Coralville, IA 52241-0591): Five guys jamming in a bar, recorded live, unrehearsed and without overdubbing — and sounding damned good. Relaxed, flowing instrumentals that heat up unexpectedly from time to time, as good upbeat jazz should. Nice sax work from Grant Koehler and a pair of guitars anchor the action here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JET BLACK BERRIES, "Animal Necessity" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): The PR calls this roots/psychedelic and I guess that's good enough for a sound dominated by interlocking vocals, countrified rhythms, and guitar and organ riffs. The music is bouncy and pleasant enough, but after a while all the songs run together; the band needs a bit more range. The lyrics are sort of visionary western, suitable for wide-open spaces. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

D. JEWELL, "Fireman" (Random Art Transfer, 504 W. 24th #48, Austin, TX 78705): Jewell knows how to use tape and poetry together; this is neither a reading nor a set of lyrics but something new and different. Multi-tracking techniques are used to good effect, for example, in a poem about the job application progress. There are also more traditionally read pieces — the title track is a good example, eerie in its feelings of power — and even some songs here. I like this stuff, whatever it is. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JOHNNY VOMIT, self-titled ($3.50 from PO Box 503, Dolton, IL 60419): High-energy hardcore with a bit of a grinding metal edge. This is music in the disaffected vein, with songs like "Oi for Beer Drinkers" and "Boned Again" predominating. Unfortunately the lyrics are among the most misogynistic ever penned, with some homophobia thrown in as well, leaving a repugnant feeling behind. Whether the band is serious or not, kids with ideas like these don't need encouragement. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JUDAS BULLETHEAD, "Honest...It's Just a Cold Sore" ($3 from Death Train Music, c/o Jeff Clayton, Route 3 Box 239E, New London, NC 28127): I guess this is supposed to be a joke: semi-psychedelic poor guitar playing, whiny vocals, and lyrics that pander to scuzzy interests ("I Gotta Pissso Bad I Can Taste It" is the lead song). Pretty nasty attitude towards women too. Neither musically nor socially worth bothering with. (EP/MG)

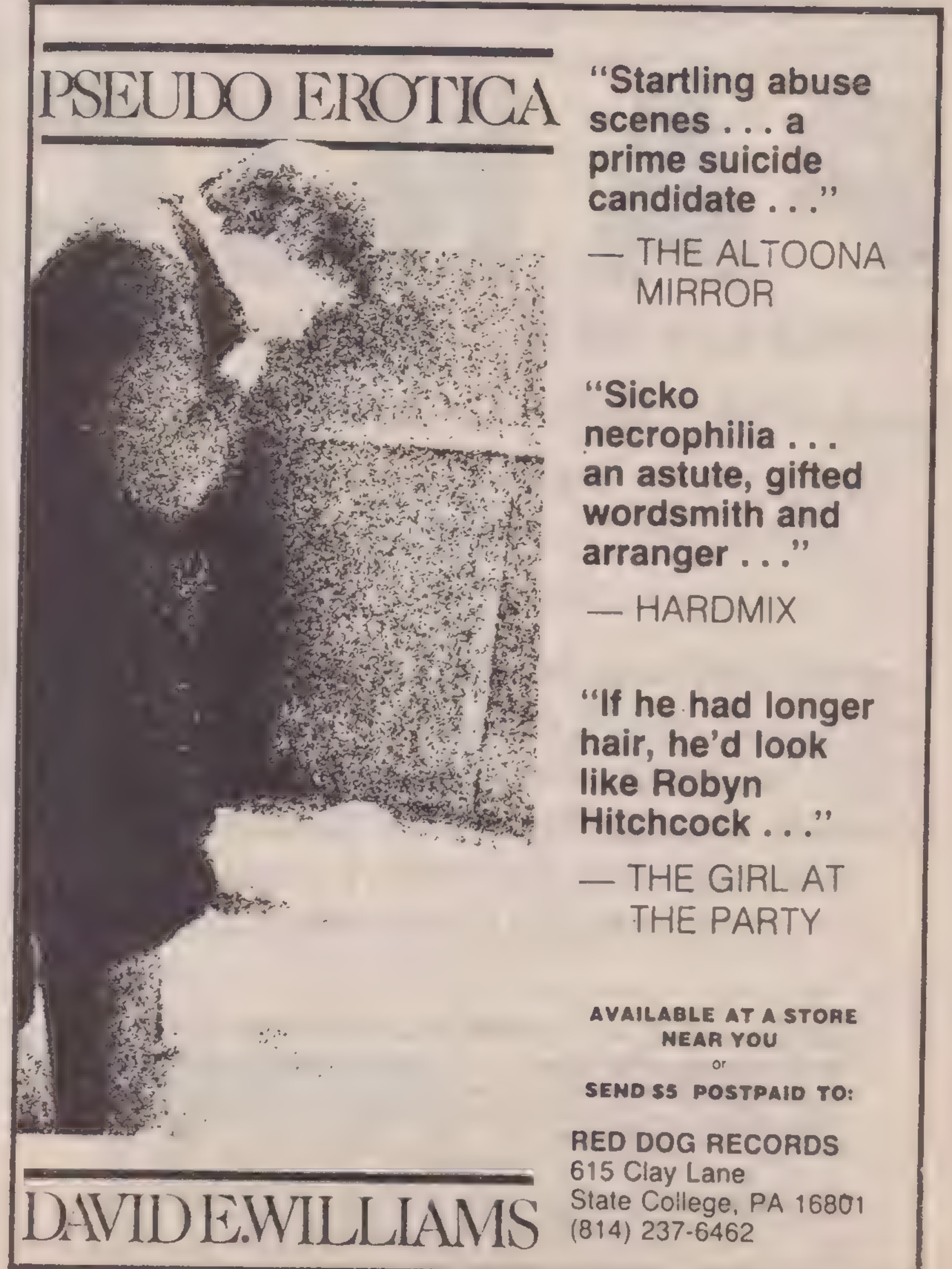
★★★★★

LEEWAY, "Born to Expire" (Profile Records, 740 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): Fast-paced and competent metallic hardcore. Unfortunately, the band seems stuck in a rut; the album would have sounded much the same with the same song recorded a dozen times in a row. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE LIE DETECTORS, "Good-Bye Ronnie, We Love to See You *GO!*" ($4 from PO Box 366, Sparkill, NY 10976): An unexpected delight in a cassette case. These guys play good rock music, but it's their lyrics and subjects that endear them to me: "Dick-tator North" has a speech from a future Ollie, "Stupid Symbols of Racism" is pretty self-explanatory, and "God For Profit" skewers the televangelists in the wallet. Riots, nukes, toxic waste...it's all here, in great sardonic detail. (T/MG)

★★★★★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FREDERICK LONBERG-HOLM, "Duets (The First 12 Days of 1989)" (Collision Cassettes, 811 W. 8th St., Wilmington, DE): At first it strongly reminded me of an orchestra string section testing out its capabilities, but little by little it began to create direction, shaping a life all its own. (T/CS)

★★★★★

MALOK, "LL Estimate" (PO Box 41, Waukau, WI 54980): A tape of experimental multi-layerings of sound. Occasionally there is so much here that the combination threatens to overwhelm the listener, but mainly it is otherworldly muzak. Rhythmic near-human chatter on side A reminds me a bit of the bar scene in STAR WARS. B has a more ethereal, almost cathedral quality to it. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ROGER MANNING, self-titled (SST, PO Box 1; Lawndale, CA 90260): Halfway through the first side (in the middle of "Lefty Rhetoric Blues") I stopped the record so I could start it again and listen *closely*. That's how good Manning's ballads are. Pure and simple guitar music, in the classic subway busker's style, and great lyrics make for a winning combination. "The West Valley Blues" could become the anthem of the anti-toxic waste movement. I love this stuff. "I know everything/just not always in time", he sings in "#16 blues", and I believe it — and in today's America he's not alone. My pick hit of the issue (I know, it won't be a hit — but it *should* be). (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE MANSON FAMILY CHRISTMAS, self-titled ($4 from Warner &c., PO Box 1028, Canal St. Stn., New York, NY 10013): I'm not really sure what's the title or group on this artistic creation, but to quote from the jacket: "the irritating sounds heard on this recording are not intended to be digested as reenactments of actual events. sounds based on personal activity." It starts out with a dreadful horn solo rendition of "hark the Herald Angels Sing", then adding voiceovers and effects gets a lot more abrasive from there. An experience more than a piece of music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SCOTT MARSHALL & FRIENDS, "We Have Met the Burden of Friendship, and Them is Us!" ($4 from Scott Marshall, Panic Records & Tapes, PO Box 1696, Skokie, IL 60076-8696): More innovative packaging from Panic; this one comes wrapped in a vinyl record that has to be melted or broken to release the tape. If you succeed, you get a wild assortment of near-industrial noises and layered vocals from a raft of Chicago-area experimental groups, including a killer reading from Bob Black's "Abolition of Work". Truth, Hiroshima, witchcraft and more are covered as subjects, while eerie saxophone work, dreary clanks and odd devices lay down a psychotic noise track. Loads of fun, music from beyond the margins. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

MECHANICAL STERILITY, "Songs to Make You Queasy" (M. Schafer, 75 Fairview Ave. #3B, New York, NY 10040): An industrial horror-movie assault on the senses, courtesy of Schafer and Charles Pinion. After about a side and a half of this maddening rolling noise I was ready to crack, start climbing the curtains and gibbering. Fortunately the tape takes a slightly milder turn at that point, letting the listener down gently. Don't mix this with LSD is my advice. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MEGADOSAGE, "The Unabridged Anthology" ($3 from Frontline Tapes, 3751 Little Neck Pt. Rd., Virginia Beach, VA 23452): 19 songs from a band that mixes hardcore and metal playing (they only list 4 on the card but the rest are all there, trust me). The most notable thing about this band is their lack of consistency; there are some good powerful tunes with excellent playing sprinkled into a sea of generic hardcore mush, sort of like raisins in a cow patty. Worth a listen for hardcore folks, but if they want to reach out it should have been abridged. The vocals are the strongest (& most consistent) point, belted with fury and honesty on almost all the cuts. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MENTAL ANGUISH, "The Killing Floor" (aT tapes, Carl Howard, 209-25 18th Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): A professional cassette on the whole: good design, sound production, full of tranquil and frightening experimental texturescapes. Thumping and repetitive, very visual, yet free of pretensions. Well recommended for the experimental music lover. (T/AG)

★★★★★

MENTAL ANGUISH and **NOMUZIC**, "Po' Boyz" (Harsh Reality Music, P.O. Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A collaboration between Chris Phinney of Harsh Reality Music and Carl Howard of audiophile Tapes. I would love to write an enthusiastic review of this cassette because I think highly of both these people, but...I am afraid that this cassette lacks somewhat in imagination. Too often synthesizers are played with rather than played, or uninspired guitar playing is overdubbed onto a rather dull rhythm track. Occassionally, ideas and sounds come together and it works, but not often enough. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

MEXICAN TAXI, "Back Into Orbit" (Sonic Boom Records, PO Box 50014, St. Paul, MN 55105): Raw and somewhat sloppy rock and roll that sounds to me like a lot of the groups from around Austin these days — even if St. Paul is rather removed from the Southwest. The lyrics walk a line between silliness and profundity and the band has enough uptempo energy that a little polish could produce an interesting product indeed. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MOEV, "Yeah Whatever" (Atlantic Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): Back with a revised lineup, but some of the same ethereal and dreamy dance music that I remember from their CD Presents release a few years ago. Moev is the brainchild of Tom Ferris, who puts together lush arrangements with obscure vocals and intricate percussion effects. "Open Mind", with its bells and intimations of something big in the lyrics, is the cut for me. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

MODERN VENDING, "Kendle" b/w "Sandy Duncan" & "Cockamamie" ($2.90 from Ajax Records, PO Box 146882, Chicago, IL 60614): I belive Ajax has set a new record for amount of paper with a debut 7"; it took longer to read the presskit than listen to the record. This band's biggest distinction appears to be that it comes from Muncie, Indiana — their music is pretty unremarkable sludgerock, energetic in places but all too noisy for my taste. Their live show is supposed to be pretty good, but the energy doesn't translate well to vinyl this time around. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

LARRY MONDELLO BAND, "Tuba Lesson" ($8 from PO Box 451, Collinsville, CT 06022): These folks skate around the edge of music — and I'm not precisely sure what side of that edge they're on. The music has both harsh rock and light industrial references, putting it in the no-man's-land of difficult to appreciate but not utterly dismissable as pure noise. Very moody and dark feel to it, with screamed/shouted lyrics in spots. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MOVING MANTELPIECE & THE UNPREDICTABLE FUTURES, "Don't Step On My Snake" ($5 cash/MO from Kyle Murray, 3307 Hampton, Austin, TX 78705): Solo synthesizer noodling from one of the underground music meccas of the world. Kyle keeps things moving along with rather minimal arrangement, relying on melody rather than technology to make the songs work. With a few rare exceptions that cross the border from charming to insipid, it works. I rather like the more bombastic organ pieces here, but there's plenty of light stuff too. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MURPHY'S LAW, "Back With a Bong!" (Profile Records, 740 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): Reggae- and ska-influenced hardcore with a comical outlook on life, tempered by a love for things American, primarily beer and dope. The sound, while showing its thrash roots, is lush and augmented by horns and heavy beats. The lyrics are tilted towards a youthful appeal, ranging from "Panty Raid" to "Quest for Herb" to the more serious "Push Comes to Shove". Not too deep, but well done. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE MUSCLE SHOALS NOISE ORCHESTRA, "Void of Course" ($4 from Abscond, 2251 Helton Dr. #N7, Florence, AL 35630): Pulsating experimental sounds from a group of electronic artists including Abscond's own Jake Berry. Oh, it's not all synths; in particular Whizz adds a haunting flute to many tracks and there is a fair amount of percussion. Nicely interwoven actions on the part of the musicians here, leading to a much more mellow sound than one normally gets from a roomfull of noise generators. (T/MG)

★★★★★

MY BLOODY VALENTINE, "Isn't Anything" (Creation/Relativity, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): Speaks softly but carries a big beat. Hingle/jangle guitars driving blurredly noisy pop music with a decidedly surreal 60's edge that, while forceful, is neither hard nor harsh. Top it off with slightly dreamy, slightly wandering vocals and it makes for a release of ever shifting contrasts that come together as a strong cohesive whole. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

THE MYSTERY TRAMPS, "Automo Blowjob" ($4 from Jeff Jarnie, 750-119 North, Indiana, PA 15701): A folksy and electric combo with an appropriate lack of percussion. The lyrics will put you in cramps, intended or not, with an unnecessarily forceful rhyming pattern that includes "...I own a cat/its name is Burtles/When it's drunk/it fucks dead turtles" delivered in an REM/VFemmes deadpan. Basement production. (T/AG)

★★★★★

THE MYSTERY TRAMPS, "Coagulateshow" ($4 from Jeff Jarnie, 750-119 North, Indiana, PA 15701): Appealingly whiny offering in both vocal and song presentation with an offbeat outlook on its material. The guitars come together to sound like a wailing synthesizer, and the whole thing sounds like it was done on some sort of hallucinogenic drug. (My pick: "Dali's Revenge" — a nifty, mournful tune that really caught my fancy). (T/CS)

★★★★★

THE MYSTERY TRAMPS "Panic is Counterproductive" ($4 from Platitude Music, Jeff Jarvie, 750-119 North, Indiana, PA 15701): Uninterested vocals and monotonous acoustic guitar chords predominate this release. These guys are the acoustic equivalent of the Ramones, except they take themselves seriously and they exhibit absolutely no passion whatsoever in their playing or singing. On "Rejection Slip" they perceive themselves as the anti-Smiths, willing to stand up to the know nothing critics who lambast their songs. An awful recording adds to the audio misery. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

NATIONAL PEOPLE'S GANG, "The Hard Swing" (Dr. Dream, 58 Plaza Sq., Orange, CA 92666): There's a little bit of everything here, and then some. You've got The Doors' roadhouse swing, The Cult's hard rock dark edges, the jangle of the Replacements or Soul Asylum, the pop dramatism of Queen and even a little of Flag of Democracy's hardcore craziness. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH, "Now Hiring Smiling Faces" ($3 from Vinyl Communications, PO Box 8623, Chula Vista, CA 92012): Thrash-speed light punk music with lots of special effects (some probably even intentional) and politically-correct lyrics. They rag on "Urban Fashion Punks" and predict a revolution coming soon to your town. Ends on an annoying note with a looped track of jarring noises. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

NEW ROGER DIARRHEA, self-titled ($2 from PO Box 2143, Stow, OH 44224): A sort of garage rock opera about a kid who is not in the best of psychological shape. He gets into self-mutilation and other sloppy pursuits, all to the accompaniment of massively fuzzy guitars. The whole comes with a lyric booklet with cranky little illustrations, and the music on the B side is without vocals so you can sing along yourself. (T/MG)

★★★★★

NINE POUND HAMMER, "The Mud, the Blood, and the Beers" (Wanghead Records, 19620 Wahrman Rd., New Boston, MI 48164): Redneck punk rock with a sense of humor (one song is even called "Redneck Romance"). These boys give out with a hard sound that's like roots rock gone mutant, The lyrics are almost C&W, full of trains and chain gangs and loves found and lost, belted out in heroic punk fashion. Go for it. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

NO FOR AN ANSWER, "A Thought Crusade" (Hawker Records, 225 Lafayette St. #709, New York, NY 10012): High-powered straightedge hardcore. There's a very humanistic band behind the music; they're not into nationalism, racism, promiscuity, drugs, or other ways to screw yourself up. On the other hand they are into heavy-duty music fronted by a guitar attack that will blast your teeth out and Dan O'Mahony's teeth-gnashing vocals. A rare combination of music and message that doesn't detract from either. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ONLY A MOTHER, "Riding White Alligators" (Private Studio, PO Box 531, Wyandotte, MI 48192): Can there be such a thing as thrash pop? If so, this is it: Fast-pace songs with lots of plinky guitars and quick vocals but a clean production and fun lyrics. Sex and religion and growing up are shot all through their elusive lurics — except for things like "Endymion the Shephard", written by Heraclitus (yes, *that* Heraclitus). Fun and decidedly different. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

ORIFICE, "A Pretty Nice Guy...A Really Good Liar" (725 S. 4th St., Philadelphia, PA 19147): A more polished product than their first release, but still with the same dark neo-industrial feel to it. The references range from mildly metallic to definitely gloomy, with a sound that's portentous throughout (occasionally wavering nearly into pompous). This is being shopped around to labels rather than sold, but if you put out records, you might send for a copy. (T/MG)

★★★★★

JIM PASSIN untitled (PO Box 585, Chelmsford, MA 01824): A rather unnerving tape of clanging percussion, looped vocals, and a few other sounds. A minute is interesting; ten minutes becomes maddening; and ultimately listening through the whole tape is an act of dedicated insanity verging on self-torture. Barely worth the power to play it. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DON PAUL AND THE RANGE RIDERS, "What Kind of Trouble?" (Revolutionary Records, PO Box 1821, San Francisco, CA 94101): A very sixties-sounding record, though it also includes the first George Bush protest song I've heard. The music is very sparse and simple, rock beats carried on drums and acoustic guitar, but the main attraction is in Paul's lyrics. These range from ecstatic sex to the situation in Nicaragua to just songs of happy dancing people. Quotes from Che and Malcolm X top off the lyric sheet. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

P. CHILDREN, "P. CH 3" ($7.50 from Vacant Lot Records, PO Box 606, Red Bank, NJ 07701): Harsh noises made with broken glass, prepared instruments, samplers, rhythm machine, "A bowed light fixture", and a variety of other things. This is definitely careful artistry rather than mindless industrialism, and there is a strange grace and beauty to some of these tracks once you get by the surface harshness. Pressed on clear vinyl and packaged in a clear vinyl sleeve, though it may not leave you feeling clear when it's over. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

PHBTJ, "Verfall" (P. Klinger, 115 W. 33rd, San Bernardino, CA 92405): I kept thinking of an LA freeway throughout most of this release — due, in great part, to the rushing noises in the foreground and the muted sounds of activity in the background. At times this kind of thing combined to create a real mood — otherwise it did little more than create a real sense of tedium. (T/CS)

★★★★★

PIXIES, "Come On Pilgrim" (Rough Trade, 326 Sixth St., San Francisco, CA 94103): Primal scream therapy for jaded popsters. This music is definitely on the pop end of the spectrum but that doesn't make it predictable. Loose playing, changing tempos, startling vocals, curious lyrics — it adds up to a new face for pop, one that isn't so sweet and gentle as the old one. Adrenalin-inducing music that shows real promise. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

PLECID, self-titled ($6 from Audio Research Foundation, 615 State St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101): An enigma, but one well worth trying to penetrate — there is no PR on this group, not even any song titles. Instead there's eerie flowing music, tribal rhythms for a new age of burned-out buildings and dreams of freedom. Vocals weave in and out of the hypnotic beat, contributing to the hallucinogenic effects. Much better than the usual techno-gloom-pop, this is music that demands you *feel*. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BERN PORTER, "Williamson Street Blues" (Audio Muzixa Qet, 1341 Williamson, Madison, WI 53703): Another emanation from the home of the Festival of the Swamps, this features Porter reading a variety of works in his buzzsaw-meets-nail voice, with collaborative experimental improvisations on the other channel. The works range from an impromptu performance of the Madison phone book through readins of traditional Chinese poetry to Porter's own bilious "The Last Acts of St. Fuck You." Surprisingly enjoyable stuff. (T/MG)

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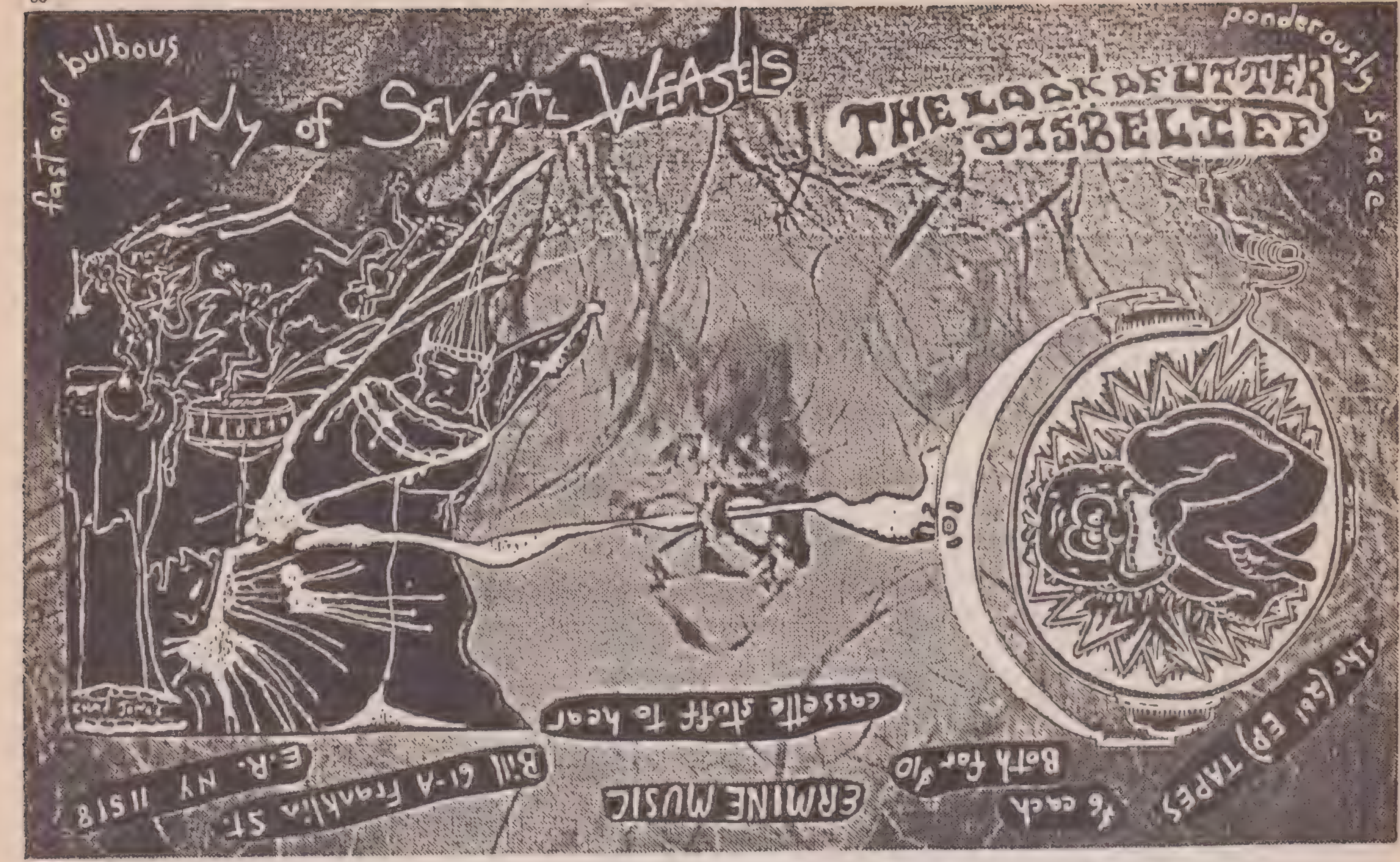

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★★★★★

PRINCE FAR I WITH THE SUNS OF ARQA, "The Musical Revue" ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): High-powered multiply-layered reggae music that you can enjoy without even knowing anything about the genre. Improv vocals, lots of dubbing and complex tracking, but the music never gets stuck in a rut, wandering around reggae and raga and other genres more esoteric. Far I's vocals bind it all together with an imperial command of the voice, alternately mellow and divine. (T/MG)

★★★★★

PRISONSHAKE, "Deanna" b/w "Shook Like Roses" (Scat Records, PO Box 141161, Cleveland, OH 44114): Pretty unspectacular roots rock featuring a very prominent bass line and (on the flip side) some feedback that seems to have no purpose at all. Nothing wrong with the music here, just nothing to hook the listener. (45/MG)

★★★★★

PRONG, "Force Fed" (In-Effect, 187-07 Henderson Ave., Hollis, NY 11423): First domestic release of this high-power metallic album (previously on Spigot Records), with a bonus track and new mastering. This three-piece creates music to melt your brain down. The lyrics aren't brilliantly narrative, but they do manage to get more than three words and a grunt into each song, which is another point in their favor. Crank it up when you get the urge to mainline some decibels. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

RAKE WOUNDS, "...On Being a Man" (Cellar Productions, 11 Werner Rd., Greenville, PA 16125): A pretty much solo production of Brian Johnson and his guitar, with some help on drums. The music is undistinguished thrash hardcore, but the lyrics are rather unusual. No punk anthems here, no mindless mosh, just social responsibility. Concerns include animal rights, homelessness, and sexism. Lyric sheet included. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RAS MICHAEL & THE SONS OF NEGUS, "Rastafari Dub" ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): The dub (i.e., heavily engineered and multi-tracked with minimal vocals) of a classic reggae album. Ras Michael does the lead vocals, Peter Tosh sits in on guitar, Robbie Shakespeare contributes slow and sensual bass, and a variety of folks add traditional percussion. Very enjoyable and a welcome addition to the ROIR collection of dub albums. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RATTAIL GRENADIER se;f-titled (Roadkill Records, PO Box 37, Prospect Heights, IL 60070): It starts off generic thrash rock that begins to develop a spunky personality with more depth than the first song displays. Lots of catchy things incorporated into the thrash/garage rock format make it a fun, memorable release. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

MURRAY REAMS, "InstruMENTAL (pope)" ($3.50 from Watergate Tapes, PO Box 10331, Greensboro, NC 27404): A collection of wild improvisations and found sounds — including some classic movie soundtracks — from this cutup genius. Guitars and organs are made to do things not in the owner's manuals, while bits and pieces of other noises ooze into the corners of your mind. Subliminal insanity. (T/MG)

★★★★★

BRIAN RITCHIE "Sonic Temple and Court of Babylon" (SST Records, P.O. Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260): Brian Ritchie is the ex-bassist of the Violent Femmes and now solo artist fronting a rock quartet. His music, instruments, and cover art suggest a decided 60's psychedelic influence reminescent of Brian Jones of the Rolling Stones (to which homage is paid in the way of a dedication). The music flows most freely and melodic on the cuts where Ritchie seems to be singing and writing from the heart ("Sun Ra-Man...", "A.D.", "Mayerling...") and bogs down on some of the more political cuts ("Why Did You Lie to Me?", "America") where the lyrics and music seem forced. I find it highly amusing that Ritchie can write songs like "Christian For One Day" and "No Resistin' a Christian" while ex-fellow bandmember Gordon Gano produces gospel rock. Interesting. (LP/KJ)

★★★★★

KIM ROBERTSON and **VIRGINIA KRON**, "Gratitude" (Invincible, PO Box 13054, Phoenix, AZ 85002): Kim is of course one of Invincible's mainstays, coaxing amazing sweet tones out of her Celtic harp, and Virginia is a concert cellist. Here they team up to play a mix of traditional folk tunes and new compositions by Kim in a set of quiet instrumentals. This music goes by all too quickly, and seems to help revitalize the middle of the day — if you've the flexibility not to demand thrash rhythms and electric guitars at all times. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW, "Live Cast Performance From Germany & New Zealand" ($6 from Craig Blomquist, CB Tapes, 48 Beck Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046): A limited-edition collectors tape for Rockyphiles. The German side is quite bizarre, sort of like seeing American Gothic overpainted in lederhosen — though there are English tag lines preserved in many of the songs. The instrumentation in Germany is quite rudimentary. The New Zealand version is more familiar, though new arrangements dress up a few things like "Time Warp" so you can tell it differs. Production quality is adequate but not great on both recordings. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ROOM 291, "The Conspiracy of Light" ($5 from Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Electronic rock that pulsates with a strange sort of energy. On a few occasions it slips into endless hypnotism, but then the players are galvanized by something and start confusing the matter again. Guitars and keyboards are here, along with odd synthetic noises and ominous vocals. Much more like rock than most HR releases. (T/MG)

★★★★★

NICK RUDD, "Strange World" (Office Records, PO Box 1792, Eau Claire, WI 54701): Really nifty acoustic-oriented rock loaded with hooks that constantly bring to mind songs from the past three decades or so. The arrangements are dense without seeming crowded, the lyrics are relatively simple but honest, and Rudd sings with an almost painful intensity. Rainy-day music that can harmonize with a lot of moods. (T/MG)

★★★★★

RUN WESTY RUN, self-titled (SST, PO Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260): Sort of technorockabilly with really bizarre lyrics that seem intended more to baffle than enlighten. They play fairly fast and all the sounds here work together to produce sort of a screen of guitars with twisted vocals in front. Might be thought of as a party band for the confused. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE SANDMEN, "Western Blood" (A&M Records, 595 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10022): Sorta psychedelic pop-rock from Denmark, of all places. These guys have a sound that mostly whines along, drawing out the tunes and dragging the listener with them. Almost no trace of foreign influence, no technopop, just rock the way it used to be played. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SCAB CADILLAC, "Tagged & Numbered" ($7 from Rave Records, PO Box 40075, Philadelphia, PA 19106): Grungy and slightly metallic rock from this 4-piece that's fed up with the world but not quite ready to abandon ideals. "Gaza Striptease", for example, features a haunting melody and lyrics ending "...all leaders should lead with wisdom and love." Other targets for their musical critiques include systems that leave kids hungry while Caddys get driven in the streets and homelessness in general. Heavy and thoughtful at the same time. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SCARECROW, "No Reason To Be Sad" ($6 from Sonnhalde 45, 7800 Freiburg, WEST GERMANY): Actually that price covers the 4-song EP that this is a promo for. Scarecrow plays heavy grandiose rock that reminds me

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a bit of Blue Oyster Cult in its intensity. "Manipulated Minds" in particular is a 4-minute eardrum-killer, with a rather downbeat set of lyrics predicting the decline of the human race. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SCREECHING WEASEL, "Boogadaboogadaboogada!" (Roadkill Records, PO Box 37, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-0037): These guys manage to deliver 27 songs of high-intensity rock without degenerating into thrash mindlessness, a stunning achievement. Plenty of humor here, from a cover of "Runaway" to "I Hate Led Zeppelin" to "Supermarket Fantasy" to "Hey Suburbia". A definite winner with potential for much more hilarity in the future. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SDT, "Demo 11-88" (555 Broderick #5, San Francisco, CA 94117): Sonic Disruption Theory is still going strong, and turning out prime hard-rock material. Just listening to this tape, you wouldn't know it was recorded in a garage; the polish is incredible, though it's not insincere. This is the sort of music I like to just plug in and crank up without being too intellectual about; it's got the power and rhythm to be enjoyable as a raw experience. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SECOND SELF, "Time Bomb" (Rage Records, 250 W. 57th St. #2429, New York, NY 10117): Close to roots rock but with a sharper edge to it, the musical stylings are what make this band. Andrew Nehra's bass is crisp and sharp, and the added tracks with sax, trumpet and basoon do a lot to enhance the music as well. The bottom line is pleasant music from an intelligently-extended basic four-piece, with lyrics that sooth and question at the same time. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE SELVES, "Cocktails...and Plenty Of 'Em!" ($8 from Susstones Records, PO Box 6425, Minneapolis, MN 55406): Poppy-sounding guitar rock with a few odd touches of funk thrown in. They play a fairly mainstream sort of music, sometimes on the dark and dreary side, but with enough upbeat numbers thrown in to keep things moving. Their music stays recognizable without sliding into a rut, which can be a rather difficult accomplishment. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

EVERETT SHOCK, "Ghostboys" (SST, PO Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260): Spunky funky rock, heavy on keyboard interplay and guitar work, with a ranting, raving Shock fronting it all — the comparisons to Frank Zappa are inevitable and deserved. The lyrics...well, how about: "Bats bakin' bacon buy my buttered hat/ No bending! No Bending!". It's not all that hermetic, but none of it is consensus reality. Fun and lively. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SHOCKABILLY, "Earth Vs. Shockabilly" ($7 from Shimmy-Disc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10116): An archival recording of these musical deconstuctionists, dating way back from Halloween '82. Chadbourne, Kramer and Licht attack and defeat such musical superstars as Hendrix, Cash, the Stones and Lennon, playing distorted, demented cover versions of once-loved songs. They also throw in some original Chadbournian madness. Excellent for anyone who's feeling a bit blah about music that all sounds the same lately. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

GARY SILL, "Pachelbel: Music for Meditation" (Invincible, PO Box 13054, Phoenix, AZ 85002): From Canada's GRD Recordings but marketed in the States by Invincible, this one has a simple premise. It's Pachelbel's well-known Canon in D Minor combined with recordings of waves and gulls — "Nature's Ocean Sounds" — to make it even more relaxing. It works, producing soothing music that makes it nearly impossible to stay tense. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SINISTER ATTRACTION, "Red Tape" (c/o Sandy Kane, PO Box 85, Landenberg, PA 19350): An experimental sort of tape featuring gloomy melodies, sampled vocals, and an eerie feel throughout. Just two people create this barrage of noise, but with multi-tracking and computer techniques they sound like a lot more than that. Too outre to be classed as simply "music", but still with enough ties to the traditional genres to be accessible. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SKIP & THE EXCITING ILLUSIONS, self-titled ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): Funky and mildly improvisational music, loaded with great horns. There are some tight numbers here, but more extended jams that get deep into your bones with their changing rhythms and polished feel. Bits of jazz and blues fuse together to make a rich and cheerful sound here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

AZALIA SNAIL, self-titled ($4 from 76 Charles St. #3G, New York, NY 10014): Haunting minimalist melodies, featuring Snail's high and sweet vocals with jangling guitars and various processed noises. This is something like industrial psychodelia, music that hearkens back to the hippies at the same time that it drags in the current philosophy of noise. Some of this stuff is from the soundtrack to "Inside Her Minds", a short film which has opened for Butthole Surfers gigs. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SOCKEYE, "The Loony Misadventures of Your Dick" ($2 from Dave, PO Box 2143, Stow, OH 44224): Short tunes with minimal grungy instrumentation and a variety of mostly-rock styles. 13 songs in about 15 minutes without thrash speed, but with quite a bit of (sometimes morbid) humor. Try "Vegetarians Are Wimps" or "Cut Off Your Arm" for size. There's also a pledge of eternal allegiance to Jello Biafra here. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SORE THROAT, "Unhindered by Talent" (Weasel Records, PO Box 1274, Manhattan Beach, CA 90266): These guys play in Britain, and this piece of vinyl may set some kind of thrash record: 52 songs, some very short (one indeed, is titled "Three Seconds Long", which is also the full lyrics). Most are thrash, though some inexplicable ballads creep on as well. These seem like ideas for songs, rather than songs themselves. Topics include booze, other groups they hate, war, politics, sexism and straightedge (they're against all of the above). (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SPECIAL ED, "Youngest In Charge" (Profile Records, 740 Broadway, New York, NY 10003): Well, nobody has made me actually like rap yet, but Profile has brought me to appreciate it. This album is much nicer to listen to than most of the bloated male posturing of the genre; the music is much funkier and Special Ed seems to have a sense of humor that perverts the usual rap topics in odd ways. On top of that, he's done it while still in high school, making this album a rather impressive achievement. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SPONGEHEAD, "Potted Meat Spread" ($7 from Shimmy-Disc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10116): Decidedly different rock that mixes in harsh and quirky sounds with more usual song structures and rhythms — a synthesis of industrial and traditional elements. The result is a texture which takes some getting used to but is enjoyable as a break from the mold, propelled by the sax-playing of David Henderson and the noise-guitar of Doug Henderson. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

SPONGETUNNEL, "1989" (Underdog Records, PO Box 182, Chicago, IL 60614): A record poised on the border of punk and pop; hard-edged guitars and plenty of power combined with a sense of accessibility and tight arrangements. The title song is an anthem of sorts, though it doesn't offer a lot of hope for the year. The flipside has a couple of remakes: "I'll Never Fall in Love Again" and "Bad Reputation", both done with an abundance of silly touches to give a relaxed and friendly feeling to the music. (45/MG)

★★★★★

STINKFIST self-titled (Blast First, 262 Mott St. #324, New York, NY 10012): A joint project of Clint Ruin and Lydia Lunch, released on Lydia's own Widowspeak label. Harsh tribal rhythms, lots of crashing metal, and vocals mainly by Lydia lead to a hypnotic and distressing experience. A raw to the bone downer take on life and love, with an album cover that Lydia fans are sure to appreciate. Experimental but not so private as to be hopeless. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

SUCKDOG, "Christmas Songs" ($5 from Lisa Carver, PO Box 1491, Dover, NH 03820): Once again FF is late reviewing the seasonal music. Oh well. This tape has what we've come to expect from Lisa and her unidentified accompanists: profanity, screaming, dissonant piano pounding, disgusting lyrics, and occasional moments of music. There really are Christmas songs on this tape...but I don't think the Pope, for example, would care to hear them in this condition. (T/MG)

★★★★★

SUCKDOG, "I Like Bulls...I Am a Bull!" ($6 from Lisa Carver, P.O. Box 1491, Dover, NH 03820): If four talentless drunks were to record something spurious using only drums, sticks, vocals and sometimes a piano, this is what they would sound like. In fact, that is exactly what this is. The joke wears thin after a couple of minutes when you realize that these performers are more than content to amuse themselves rather than produce a decent cassette. Surely they don't take themselves seriously. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

S. SWAG ET. AL., "The Garbagey Terrain" ($2.50 from Shawn Swagerty, 428 Ridge St. NW, Washington, DC 20001): Exactly what it purports to be: grungey, garagey, "garbagey". Snippets of songs heavy on echo and thick in tone. Like a slowly spiraling, lazily swirling pool of garbage sludge that draws you in even as it turns you away. (T/CS)

★★★★★

SWEET BABY, "It's a Girl" (Ruby Records, PO Box 48888, Los Angeles, CA 90048): Not since the Ramones has a band sounded like this...in fact, these days sometimes even the Ramones don't sound like this any more. Brash, gung-ho, not-afraid-to-get-its-feet-wet-hell-dive-on-in rock music that sprinkles little Beatle influences and Replacements-like abandonment throughout their songs. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

TALL DWARFS, "Hello Cruel World" (Homestead Records, PO Box 800, Rockville Centre, NY 11571-0800): Garage psychedelia from the antipodes. This is a collection of earlier recordings that came out on Flying Nun and was later released in the UK before Homestead brought it out here. TD is a two-person core of jangly guitar and imaginative percussion, filled out by all sorts of friends and odd instruments. Pop with a serious drug problem, perhaps, and definitely in tune with the current NZ-mania among indie music types. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TANG S'DANG, demo tape (Jim Santo, 346 Van Wagner Pl., Williston Park, NY 11596): A pretty hot sounding demo tape of well-produced pop.

There's a lot of talent here, as well as a good full sound — surprisingly so for a three-piece. The lyrics are alternately serious and silly; my favorite tune here, "Tiger by the Tail", is in the latter category, though with a core of emotion to back it up. I like these fellas and hope to hear more from them in the future. (T/MG)

★★★★★

DAVE THOMAS, "The Isle of Dreams" ($7 from 10150 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, CA 91042): This tape was created with a complex array of computers, MIDI and synthesizers. However, the technological edges don't really show through, as Dave manages to make pleasant instrumentals with a variety of catchy riffs and a minium of mindless noodling. This stuff strikes chords from Jazz to Japanese as it wanders around, not settling down and becoming boring. More chewy than New Age music. (T/MG)

★★★★★

THROWING MUSES, "House Tornado" (Sire Records, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10019): Kristin Hersh's voice is still the first thing that strikes you about the Muses: the rough edges and catches are still there, though much more under control than they were on their first few outings. r(But don't let this keep you from noticing the two wonderful tacks sung by Tanya Donnelly, who turns in consistent if somewhat less flashy performances). The backing music is bouncy and intriguing, less commercial than it was on "The Fat Skier", with sometimes more lush arrangements, as on "Walking in the Dark". The lyrics leave plenty of room for imagination, impressions rather than stories. All in all, I still love 'em, and this album is progress for their unique brand of thinking pop. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

JOHNNY THUNDERS & PATTI PALADIN, "Copy Cats" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): Hard to believe that this is the same Johnny who gave us "Too Much Junkie Business", or to remember that Paladin comes from Flying Lizards (hell, how many of you even *remember* that band?) — since this is fantastic covers of obscure 50's tunes, not complete copies of the originals, but not completely bitched up with new wave stuff either. Best track here is the superb sparkling "Baby It's You" (featuring Chrissie Hynde on backing vocals) and "Crawfish", from the great talking intro on. This has gotten rave reviews elsewhere and it's easy to hear why. Surprisingly good for such a simple concept. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

STEFAN TISCHLER, "In Florette's Room" (Generations Unlimited, 199 Strathmore #5, Brighton, MA 02135-5210): Electronic/experimental music with every track exuding a sense of craftsmanship. Tischler is at home with a wide range of techniques — from simple melodies to complexly-structured pieces to ones with found sounds tipped in to them. "Beautiful" is the word that comes to mind, especially when the record has just ended with a slow quiet piece full of pure notes. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TREACHEROUS JAYWALKERS, "Good Medicine" (SST, PO Box 1, Lawndale, CA 90260): Lots of politically correct and socially conscious lyrics here: they sing about things like the need to abolish nuclear arms, the threat of pollution, the mistreatment of the Indians and the threat of runaway civilization. Unfortunately the music is sort of jangly rock, so laid-back and mellow as to be almost unrecallable moments after playing the record, with a few light touches of psychedelia. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THOMAS TRUAX AND HIS DARK TRICKS, "Spook Show" ($5 from T. Bolchunos, Dark Trick Music, 151 First Ave. #229, New York, NY 10003): Gothic music embellished with a selection of sampling and sequencing technology. Very black packaging and a nifty lyric booklet combine with perhaps over-expressive vocals to give this a B-movie feel. A must for those in love with the dark and despairing side of things, but don't expect too much of these 5 songs. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

TRUSTY, demo tape (Big Bob, 38 Nobview Cr., Little Rock, AR 72205): These guys claim to be the only punk/hardcore band in Arkansas now that Econochrist has shipped out to California, and I have no reason to doubt that. But being best is not simply a matter of rarity; they actually play very tight arrangements with a lot of vigor, and sound damned good. Great lyrics that poke as much fun at the scene as its enemies too. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

PIERCE TURNER, "The Sky and the Ground" (Beggars Banquet, c/o RCA Records Label Publicity Dept., 1133 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10036): Very idiosyncratic light rock by this expatriate Irishman. Calling it rock, though, doesn't capture the basic simplicity of the songs, nor the production added by film score composer Simon Boswell; the end result is polished without sounding phony. His lyrics are obscure and condensed, but deal with humanity from a basis of both fascination and faith. Refreshingly different. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

THE UNTOUCHABLES, "Agent 00 Soul" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): I've been an Untouchables fan since I saw their first video years ago, and this album is a fine addition to their works. Here they add a bit of rap to their ska/reggae/soul sound, keep the music bouncing, and enjoy themselves while delivering a good time to the listener. From the bouncy cover of "Under the Boardwalk" to the more serious "World Gone Crazy", they blast forth with a beat that can't be topped. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

VAGUE PERCEPTION, "Crucify the Stupid" b/w "Run to the Greenhouse" ($2 from Brian Mastrobuono, 93 Bellevue Ave., Warwick, RI 02888): Slightly metallic garage rock with a nice sound to it. Bill DeLuca's lead guitar isn't phenomenal yet but shows promise; Brian Luiz's vocals make the best of rather curious lyrics. Includes an unlisted bonus track, "Masturbator in the Elevator", just to upset your mom. (45/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Bark Bark Bark" (Dead Issue Records, PO Box 1645, Staten Island, NY 10314): Different types of alternative rock music that form a cohesive presentation based loosely on style, but more so on energy and attitude. All of the bands are worth noting, a few in particular: The False Prophets' "Destructive Engagement" is still rattling around in my head, as is Fragrant Moth's "Let's Do Beers", Stetz's cover of "Lies" and Ugly Rumors' "Seizure Sally". The label was formed in '86 by musicians dissatisfied with the current state of alternative music — this represents an effort towards promoting artists and groups that attempt truly original approaches to their music. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Deaftracks 1" ($6 from Ulrich Heinke, Rathenower str. 46, 1000 Berlin 21, WEST GERMANY): A very nice compilation of electronic and experimental music featuring both European and North American performers. Some of the fine artists here: Randy Greif, Illusion of Safety, Nature and Organsation, Nomuzic, and Factor X. Lots of funky synthesizers and a fair amount of tape-looping and other cut-up techniques, but not too much truly abrasive material. This is an accessible point from which to begin exploring the genre. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Eat Me" ($4 from BCT, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): 7 hardcore and punk bands from the U.S. & Mexico. Best tracks here are from Killroy, including a very peppy "Rally Song". Other bands featured: White Flag (11 tracks), Deranged Diction, Corrupted Service, Wallflowers, Solucion Mortal, and No Response. 39 cuts in all, mostly fast-paced, and mainly in English (unlike many BCT tapes). (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "GDHC" ($4 from BCT, PO Box 16205, San Diego, CA 92116): A studio compilation of Italian hardcore material from a few years back. Much of this is alternate versions of stuff from their "Last White Christmas" series, but there isn't that much more polish — Juggernaut in particular seem to thrive on distortion. A few polished numbers from Useless Boys slip in at the end, as well as high-power stuff from Cheetah Chrome Motherfuckers and Wardogs. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Great Fire of London" (Restless Records, 11264 Playa Ct., Culver City, CA 90231-3628): 14 tracks from ten bands signed to London's Fire Records, put together here as a sort of showcase for the label. Most of this is swirly melodic rock, sort of psychedelic in places but with touches of hard edges as well. Bands features include The Rose of Avalanche, Blue Aeroplanes, Close Lobsters and The Parachute Men. A polished piece of work, including half a dozen previously unreleased tracks. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Innocence is Bliss: A Punk Sampler" ($3.75 from Wasted Effort Productions, PO Box 2095, Quincy, MA 02269): The profits from this one are going to the AIDS Action Committee and the International Society for Animal Rights, and the music is pretty good, so you should definitely consider a copy. Comes with an 8-page lyric booklet and a mini of Paul Weinman's poetry too. Highlights include Angry Kids' "Hate in Numbers", Nuclear Ants' "Punksong (Alienation)", and the Screeching Weasel version of "Merry-go-Round". 17 bands in all, from hardcore to neo-pop. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Melodic Tears" (Orphanage, P.O. Box 315, 1702 W. Camelback, Phoenix, AZ 85015): Leans toward a more "accessible" sound. This release is one that I enjoyed listening to twice through, but it's one of those compilations that seems to disappoint as often as it rewards. Good efforts by The Arms of Someone New and Minus Bill are overshadowed by other rather mediocre cuts by Happy World and Noiz. Having Psycodrama finish up the cassette with another racist anthem didn't help to endear me to this one either. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Picture Noises From the Global Swamp" ($4 from Colin Hinz, 349 West St. N #3, Orillia, ONT L3V 5E1, CANADA): Audio documentation of the 1988 Festival of the Swamps, featuring improvisations, sound poetry, prepared texts, and lots of cool percussion. It's surprising how polished this raw-from-the-event tape sounds, from the sax musings to the angry swamplings. Perhaps the next best thing to being there. Comes in a well-decorated case. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Pleasureland" ($4.50 from Flying Squirrel Productions, 3413 West Ave., Austin, TX 78705): A diverse collection of experimental Austin noisemakers. There's a lot of banging and clashing and found sounds and tape loops here, as well as some good old rock. Featured bands include Seemen, Biscuit, Liquid Mice, Triangle Mallet Apron, and Dixie Cup & The Dispensers. Flying Squirrel is now accepting submissions for their next tape as well. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Raw Milk" (Turn of the Century, 37 May St., New Britain, CT 06052-1011): Here's a different idea: give a handful of avant-garde groups the chance to produce their own music, and then transfer those results to a 4-song CD without interfering. The result uses the purity of the CD to reproduce the desired imperfections of these techno-noodlers: Commodity Fetish, Action, Gelatinous Citizen and The Industrious Fleas, whose sampler-ridden "The Human Flea" is unexpectedly charming. (CDS/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Revenge of the Kamikaze Stegosaurus' From Outer Space" ($6.50 from Ax/ction Records, PO Box 623, Kendall Sq., Cambridge, MA 02142): A mostly hardcore compilation album with a good mix of music, from an Alice Cooper cover by PTL Klub to a GG Allin cut to Cancerous Growth, Psycho, and Afterbirth. All unreleased material wrapped ina great set of RK Sloane covers. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Short Fuse Audio Supplement" (Send a blank 60-minute tape & return postage to Holden, PO Box 90436, Santa Barbara, CA 93190): A collection of works from the crew involved with **SHORT FUSE** magazine. It includes poetry, ritual-sounding chants, some random music, and verbal compositions put together in experimental ways. There's also bits of a radio interview with some of the people involved. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Still Angry" (100 Russet Ave., Toronto, ONT M6H 3M3, CANADA): A group of modern protest songs. The first side is mostly hardcore stuff, with Dead Silence's "We Turned Away" and Eco-Guerillas "Napalm The Rainforest" standing out. The second side is quieter, with music from Danbert Nobacon, Chumbawamba, and Mans Hate, including lots of animal rights stuff. Sound quality is marginal but still listenable, and a lyric sheet is included. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Studio Animals" (Private Studios, PO Box 531, Wyandotte, MI 48192): There's a lot of fun stuff on this non-punk compilation. Eugene Chadbourne leads off with a spirited rendition of "Let Them Drink While They're Young", followed shortly by some jazz/experimental fusion from Sublime Wedge. Later on the Plug Uglies give us the musical story of "Albert Fish" to a demented kiddie-music background, and Only a Mother contributes a few hot tunes too. 10 bands in all, and lots of odd but pleasant sounds. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Surf Party" (Surfdust Music, 609 Queens Ave., New West, BC V3N 1L1, CANADA): A collection of classic-sounding surf music from The Fridge Magnets, The Unknowns, the Garage Surfers and label honcho R.C. Johnston. As is mostly true of the genre, these are all instrumentals, though Richard Hughes drops in a few bits of poetry. Bouncy and energetic stuff, with The Fridge Magnets stuff and The Garage Surfers "Great Moments in Surf Medley" standing out. Hot (dog) stuff. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Tape Iz Flesh: The Second Cumming" (Ecto Tapes, 5912 NW 62 Terr., Oklahoma City, OK 73122): A compilation featuring a few good cuts in amongst far too much staticky noise junk. On the bright side are "Corridor of Locusts" from Cephalic Index, the gloomy "She Sleeps" from Theatre of Ice, PBK's "(CNT) Oct. 1910" and the plodding but hypnotic "Ejackulation Masturbation" from Mental Anguish. Others represented include Psychodrama, Minoy, City of Worms, and Big City Orchestra — 20 cuts from 19 mostly-experimental artists in all. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Tape Number 3" ($5 from Private Studios, PO Box 531, Wyandotte, MI 48192): A very playful collection of stuff ranging from ELP-ish jams to sampler experimentation to unusual and found instrumentation. Humor shines through many of these tracks, as with the lyrics to "The Ballad of Marv" or even the kooky atmosphere of "Wolfgang Amadeus Maytag". Comes with extensive liner notes and a clean and shiny production. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "They Shall Equal the Face of the Earth" (Dormant Utopia Records, 7647 S Pierce Way., Littleton, CO 80123): A weird mix of styles, with most of the compositions being experimental, ranging from atmospheric to abrasive. The tape jumps from conventional rock with John Trubee's "Now I Ste Over Your World" to recordings of his crank phone calls. Inconsistent but it has its moments with Virus-X and Black Cab Age. (T/DW)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Today Brooklyn, Tomorrow the World" (Brooklyn Beat, 335 Prospect Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215): A compilation of bands that play Lauterbach's in Park Slope. Lots of range here, from the rendition of "Ballad of the Green Berets" by The Original Rays to the c&w "Romance is Risky" by the Moe to more silliness from When People Were Shorter and Lived By The Water. Mostly pretty poppy stuff, and it all fits together rather well to provide an entertaining disc. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Total Recess - Grade 4" (Mystery Hearsay, PO Box 240131, Memphis, TN 38124): An ambient electronic collection of music from artists of various parts of the world: United Kingdom, Japan, United States, Austria, Holland, Yugoslavia, West Germany and France, which just goes to prove how truly universal music as a language can be. (T/CS)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Two Heads are Better Than None" ($4 from Craig Blomquist, Cud Brain Tapes, 48 Beck Rd., Lindenhurst, IL 60046): Dirgy, abrasive bitching about female reproductive discomforts and subversive sexual acts. Women From Hell provide a break with a gloomy cover of "Hush". Not for those who with weak stomachs or those who like well-produced tapes. (T/DW)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "U.S. Choice Bloodtongue (Slipstream Audio #3)" ($5 from PO Box 2071, New Market Stn., Niagara Falls, NY 14301): A collection of poetry readings interspersed with the machine-gun images of Kostelanetz's "Epiphanies". Exceptional work here comes from Gerald Locklin, Belinda Subraman ("Straddling the Brink") and Mark Weber ("My Grandfather's Guitar"), but the strongest poems are from Lisa Harris & Moira Lan's "Poems for Retired Cheerleaders"; peeling back the bright smiles of high school to reveal the insecurities within. I find I like poetry better on tape than in print; the personality comes across much better this way. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Wild Bunch" ($8 from ROIR, 611 Broadway #411, New York, NY 10012): A 1985 collection, put together by the folks from **HIT PARADER**, of "18 Metal Masters". Some of the bands here are fairly well known, like Slayer and Anthrax; others seem to have vanished from common knowledge (Jag Panzer? Laaz Rockit?). Most of this metal is not too heavy, though there are a few cuts that pull out all the stops; much seems to be sort of "party metal", relatively slick and accessible. Won't completely destroy your eardrums, but your mother won't like it anyhow. (T/MG)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "The Wound Deepens" (Harsh Reality Music, P.O. Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A blend of industrial sounds from around the world featuring such well known artists as Randy Grief, John Wiggins, Big City Orchestra and Arthur Potter, among others. Whether its the pulsating rumbling you get from P.C.R., the pounding you take from Cancerous Growth or the assault from Odal (who remind me a lot of Boy Dirt Car), this cassette really burns. Sure, there are a couple of throwaways, but even John Wiggins (not my favorite) comes out strong on this one. An excellent job is done in sequencing the separate tracks to provide a good mix of sounds. Recommended. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

Various Artists, "Woundz Never Heal! Vol. 1 and 2" (Harsh Reality Music, P.O. Box 241661, Memphis, TN. 38124-1661): Unfortunately, many compilations are dumping grounds for material artists don't want to release on their own. However, volume 1 of this two tape, three hour compilation

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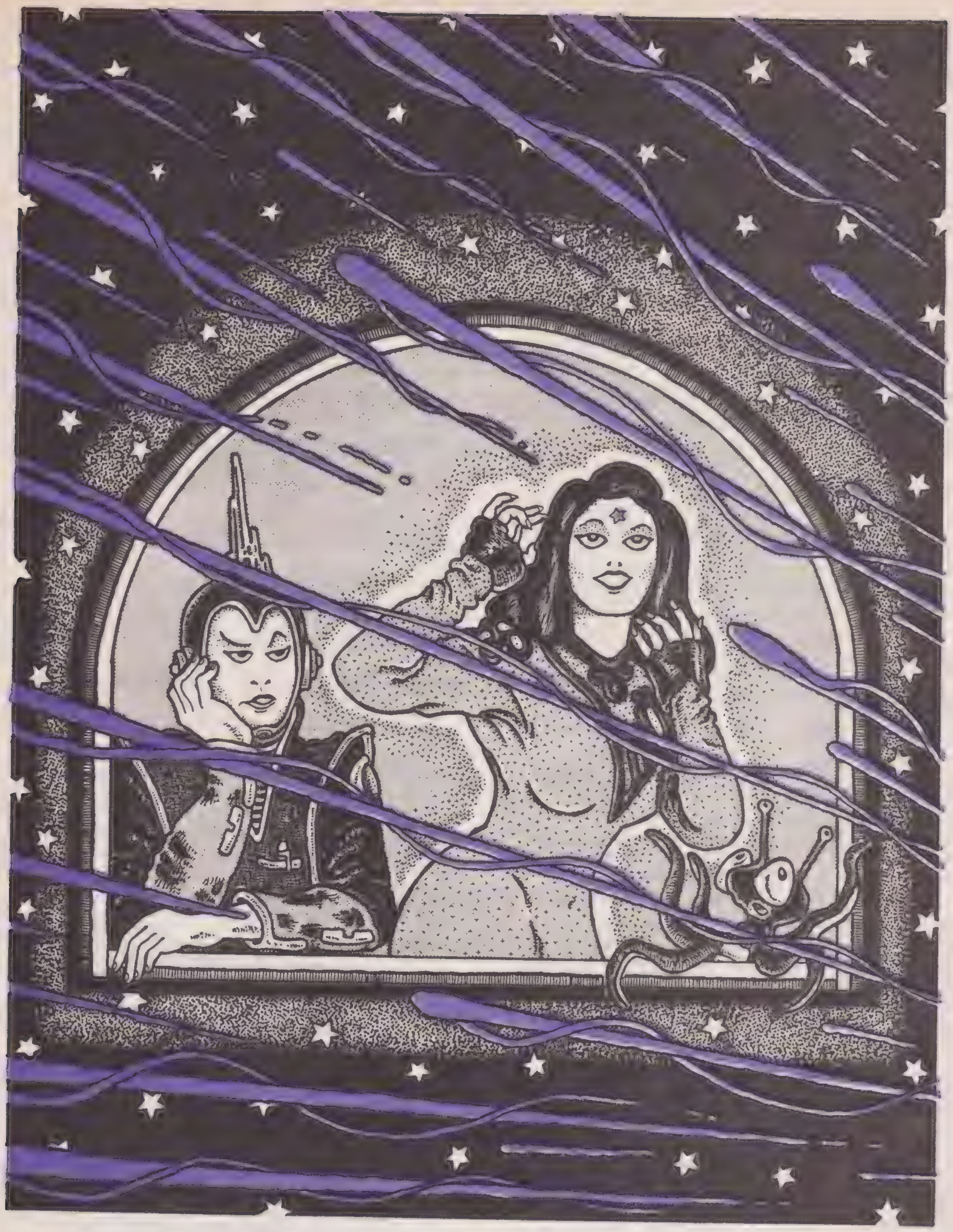

ROLLER COASTER KID IN LOVE AGAIN

by Misha

Artwork by Ferret

I like fire.
I like glory.
I like stars.

I have a passion for uncharted space. The instrument of my mind whistles with the ashy shadow of my ship. I dance with the doomed and the unusual. Yeah, the hard intonation of darkness.

I can't help it. My animal loneliness moans in a compass of silence bounded abstractly by stars.

Every couple of years it happens. It begins with the endless study of my image in mirrors and window glass. And ends with...

Well this particular time I had to transport that woman, Neko, and her companion, an octopod named Jiro, to some planet in the Mizar system. You can see it was totally unreasonable for my company to ask this.

Jorgenson saying to me, "Hey, Roller Coaster Kid." They call me that on account of my wild flying, and my space poetry. "Your orders are to take an octopod translator and an octo navigator to Mizar 16." Because I'm the best.

How the black water rushed into my brain. It would be a two week transfer. Those translators can read your mind for sure for sure. They say they can't, but look at this.

The first thing she says to me is, "I can't read your mind, really. I know what you're thinking, and it's not like that. I can only read the minds of receptors like Jiro."

Oh yeah — for sure and actual. Black water, icey space, time breaking free of itself. I had to keep an eye on my own bones. She was an oblivious beauty. I always watched my thoughts when with her. Her eyes were like unbreakable blades. Starry eyes. Irreducible. Changeless. Alive.

Space, is a sickness ripening its black harvest. My eyes measured the shadow. She couldn't read my thoughts. But I could read hers. When I closed my eyes I drifted with emotions that alter the stillness of space. I dreamt about her gamut of languages, her scintillation in shadow.

I did my worst. Shooting sunbeams directly into her hold. She could read my hands well enough. But even a sun rots, and so I intended to wait out the passion. The decorum of fire. This is the kind of aerial acid that broke into my flesh. 1. Her dress of stars. 2. Her breasts of moons. 3. Her eyes ice-hot opalines rocketing away from me at tremendous speeds. Meanwhile, the abomination of the octopod, his blue formlessness suited to space flight, read my intention. He tried to warn his companion as he navigated our concentric course.

You know why my poems never mention the soil or grasses? Come see the conic stars in her eyes, the profile of her planet, her smile gambling away the constellations like dice. All that I remember was learned from her thoughts. The air, the sand, the fire, the water. Phlogiston is in her heart. The crackle and freeze of a star's granulation in mine.

Oh yes, by the trick or her magnet, I spun on a circle of atavistics. And into the vastness of love. Again.

of artists from around the world is a virtual masterpiece with an excellent blend of familiar and unfamiliar material from artists such as Cephalic Index, Kopfschmerstablette, Randy Grief and Pierre Perrett. Volume 2 seems to contain many of the castoffs from the series with a rather uninspired synthesizer piece by David Prescott, a marginal Mental Anguish cut and the usual from John Wiggins, but there is still much material worth listening to. Volume 1 is highly recommended. (T/KJ)

★★★★★

VASCO DA GAMA, "Sex Sells. Sex" (Major Label Records, PO Box 2, Kenmore Sq., Boston, MA 02215): Somewhat technoid dance music that isn't so overprocessed as to be obnoxious. Oddly enough the lyrics are among the most socially conscious around: objectification of people, the decline of US education, and the coming world revolution are a few of the subjects too. I wonder if the same people who dance to it will hear any of this stuff? Pop with a message. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

VELVASCURGE, "Wiggly Snake" (Esync Ocular Interchange, PO Box 380621, Miami, FL 33238): Pretty classic pop with a choppy feel to it and good melodies that bounce around from song to song. Lots of good stuff here: "New England Girl" is an east coast answer to "California Girls"; "Musician" takes a moment off for introspection; while "One Minute to Light Years" simply quivers in the face of the future. Good enough that the synthesizer backbone is not at all annoying. (CD/MG)

★★★★★

VELVET MONKEYS, "Rotting Corpse au Go-Go" (Shimmy-Disc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10016): The cute liner notes by Jim Dunbar are completely uninformative, so we'll have to rely on the music itself: raw, slightly fuzzy high-test rock and roll. If the rest of the PR is to be believed, this is an archival collection of recordings from the early 80s. Whenever it's from the raw power and good times sound are there, and the silly lyrics keep them safely out of the pretentious pack. Nice stuff, few frills, no problems. (LP/MG)

★★★★★

VERTIGO, self-titled ($2 from Jason Aos, Skidmark Records, 3622 Grand Ave. S, Minneapolis, MN 55409): Debut slab from from a three-piece that puts out a startling amount of noise, skating around the edge of feedback and other disasters. "Front End Loader" puts me in the mind of "Helter Skelter", similarly degenerating at the end. Keep an ear cocked. (EP/MG)

★★★★★

VIKTIMIZED KARCASS, "The End of Buggsy" ($5 from Harsh Reality Music, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): Electronic rock that takes its time moving from song to song, exploring a riff or a theme for a while before dropping it. Lots of synths and sound effects here as well as conventional guitars and some weird vocal effects. Would make good music to get quietly stoned by, as long as you're not too into peace and love and relaxation. (T/MG)

★★★★★

VIKTIMIZED KARCASS, "Satisfaction & Despair" ($6 from Michael Jackson, XKurzhen Sound, State House PO Box 207, Boston, MA 02133): Another foray into Viktimized Karcass' inimitable live, undubbed electronic music. The dense textures are a must for anyone who wants music that strays from the conventional channels. (T/DW)

★★★★★

VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED, "Lost Horizons (Part 1)" ($4.50 from Harsh Reality, PO Box 241661, Memphis, TN 38124-1661): A live experimental performance from a Canadian group that's put out tapes on quite a number of labels lately. It features original texts, found sounds and tape loops, and of course all manner of strange noises. Eerie and eclectic. (T/MG)

★★★★★

WALLMEN, "Fluffy Like You" ($6 from Carl Howard, aT, 209-25 18 Ave., Bayside, NY 11360): This is a much more polished project than most of the previous things from this SubGenial band; that may be because it's live cuts, and so their bizarre cuteness is somewhat restrained. Not too much though — they do a killer tribute to Elvis, plus such classics as "Microdot Thanx a Lot" and "Hairdoo of Death". Very few new tunes here for completists, but a good package to start out with. (T/MG)

★★★★★

WASTED YOUTH, "Black Daze" (Medusa Records, 11264 Playa Court, P.O. Box 3628, Culver City, CA 90231-3628): A rather typical thrash release with lots of fast guitars, nasal screaming, and songs about violence and an "ordinary woman". If you enjoy this genre, you'll probably like it. But I can't find too much here to get myself excited. (LP/KJ)

★★★★★

PHILIP WHALEN, "By and Large" ($10 from Ubik Sound, PO Box 4771, Albuquerque, NM 87196): A tape of poetry by this wonderfully down-to-earth Zen practitioner. Whalen looks at the world with a cheerful combination of east and west, being earthy and descriptive one moment and off into flights of fancy hard to follow the next. It's full of change-up pitches, little touches that startle one out of complacency and revive the listener for the next experience. Lots of short pieces, almost all interesting. (T/MG)

★★★★★

TIM WHEATER, "Awakenings" (Invincible Music, PO Box 13054, Phoenix, AZ 85002): Though Wheater himself is a flutist, and provides the backbone of the instrumental works here, there is able support from synthesizers throughout. This is quintessential New Age music, inspirational and soothing, and capable of providing a picture with no words. (T/MG)

★★★★★

WHEN PEOPLE WERE SHORTER AND LIVED NEAR THE WATER "Self" (Shimmy Disc, JAF Box 1187, New York, NY 10118): A quirky, manic type of inventive garage pop characterizes most Shimmy Disc material, and this 4 song 7" EP is no exception. "This Guy's in Love With You" is probably worth the cost of the disc all by itself. "Dominique" ain't bad either. Recommended. (EP/KJ)

★★★★★

LUCINDA WILLIAMS, self-titled (Rough Trade, 611 Broadway #536, New York, NY 10012): Southern folk rock country music with a ballsy, bluesy swing to it. Williams' voice is clear and cracked in that "I've been around" style that infuses her pretty melodies with a world-weary, sharing sense of knowing. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

THE WILSONS, "Red Karpit" ($6 from P.D. Wilson, 3720 17th Ave., Columbus, GA 31904): An electric time warp space fuzz guitar experience on cassette. The whole thing sounds slightly unreal, the way so many of those 60's "man in space" movies do when played on television today. Even when the emphasis on the tuneful vocals is in the foreground (on a couple of songs) they sound detached, as though being processed through a sterilizer before allowed to contact the stereo. (T/CS)

★★★★★

WRECKING CREW, "Balance of Power" (Hawker, 225 Lafayette St. #225, New York, NY 10012): They're a lean, mean hardcore machine — looking for a few good listeners. Straightforward, gets down to it, loaded with power hardcore music that gives the lie to the rumor that punk is dead. (LP/CS)

★★★★★

YOUR FORM OF GOVERNMENT, "We Rule" ($5 from Mike Safreed, Limited Potential Records, 6653 N. Newgard Ave. #2W, Chicago, IL 60626): Playful rock that messes around with various styles, sometimes devolving so far into parody as to be unlistenable (as on the last cut, "Enjoy", which is a horrid thing). But with songs like "Psycho Daddy-O" and "Killing Accountants", they set up a good pop-rock backing and then let loose with the most bizarre lyrics imaginable. A party band with promise. (T/MG)

★★★★★

ZENDIK FARM ORGAZTRA, "Dance of the Cozmic Warriors" ($6 from Zendik Farm Arts Commune, 1431 Tierra Del Sol Rd., Boulevard, CA 92005): Music to expect the downfall of civilization by. Electronic jazzy rock with a strong beat and a no-hurry style, with ecstatic lyrics. "Let's Get Stoned" has a twist at the end that will make the dopers wonder, while "Madman" suggests that we've reached the circumstances under which going mad is a survival tactic. All instrumental jams break up the poetic pieces from one another. (T/MG)

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★★★★★

ZENDIK FARM ORGAZTRA, "Strontium Rain" ($6 from Zendik Farm Arts Commune, 1431 Tierra Del Sol Rd., Boulevard, CA 92005): Ominous, indeed almost apocalyptic rock music, with plenty of bass tones to make your spine shrivel up in terror. Most of the lyrics here are from Wulf Zendik, visionary from the Zendik Commune (see the ZINES section above) and hone in on the old culture falling to pieces while the new one rises. Scary but ultimately inspiring, with lots of heavy duty rhythms and extended notes. (T/MG)

MUSIC NOTES

•**A.C.I.** is a French tape label looking for bands influenced by "Joy Division, Bauhaus, Cocteau Twins, Tuxedomoon, Front 242" and similar groups for compilation tapes. You can contact them at 20 Avenue de Fontainebleau, 77850 Hericy, FRANCE.

•**Archives on Audio** (PO Box 170023, San Francisco, CA 94117-0023) sent me an updated listing of their conspiracy theory and other wild topics: Who Shot the Pope?, What Really Happened at Port Chicago? and The Killing of Corporal Kunze, Leon Jaworski's First Coverup are a few of their titles. Prices start under $3; send an SASE for the list.

•**The Blues Foundation** (352 Beale St., Memphis, TN 38103) has recently established a National Blues Music Hotline at 800-727-0641.

•In response to my last review, **The Bud Collins Trio** (50 Thompson Rd., North Franklin, CT 06254) sent along the lyric sheet for their "Kongsoontorncharden" tape. I guess if you have the tape they'll probably send you a copy too for the asking, though it might be nice to send a buck to cover copying & postage.

•**Cud Brain Tapes** offers a catalog of their punk, experimental, electronic and hardcore productions for a SASE, from 48 Beck Road, Lindenhurst, IL 60046. Also, any punk bands touring the Midwest can send 10¢ and an SASE for the CB tapes concert contact sheet.

•**The Dead Milkmen** (PO Box 58152, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8152) continue to pump out newsletters of crazy stuff despite their rise to pop stardom. You can probably get on their mailing list just by dropping them a line saying ingratiating things about their records.

•**Deaf Eye** (Rathenower str. 46, 1000 Berlin 21, WEST GERMANY) is looking for electronic and experimental tracks for their second compilation tape to be published this fall.

•**Dormant Utopia** (7647 S. Pierce, Littleton, CO 80123) has a new catalog out, listing about a dozen experimental tapes available for $4 each. SASE for copy.

•**Harvard Square Records** (PO Box 1975, Cambridge, MA 02238) has a couple of mail-order catalogs out for a buck each. The one of in-print rock records is 94 pages of fine print, while the Rare Rock Collectors Catalog weighs in at 62 pages of album listings.

•**Lisa Herskovits** (PO Box 319, Stuyvesant Stn., New York, NY 10009-0319), publisher of **BIKINI GIRL** does a radio show on WFMU-FM in East Orange that includes a regular segment of independent zine and music reviews. To have your product mentioned on the air, send two copies, one directly to Lisa and one to the station at Upsala College, Prospect St., East Orange, NJ 07019. Zine people are also invited to inquire about being interviewed on the air.

•**The Hope Organization** (PO Box 293, Pittsburgh, PA 15230) sells a variety of tapes from the fringes: Charles Manson interviews, Psychic TV, Annie Sprinkle spoken word, LSD documentaries, and so on. Try an SASE for catalog.

•**The Instigators** (Positive Records, Hudawi Centre, William Street, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire, HD1 6BGF, ENGLAND) sent me a pile of information on their current hardcore plans and recent release "Shockgun"

•**Interface Music Service** (10150 Commerce Ave., Tujunga, CA 91042) is a distributor of all types of music that works on a 50% commission basis. They're very interested in hearing from independent musicians.

•**Jittery Sphincter Laboratories** (PO Box 710147, Houston, TX 77271-0147) has a catalog out with a variety of strange music from their local area. They're open to trading, and the catalog should fit in an SASE.

•**K Music** has put out another catalog of their music, all sorts of strange cassettes from the likes of Girl Trouble, Some Velvet Sidewalk and Steve Fisk. Try sending a few stamps to PO Box 7154, Olympia, WA 98507 for your copy.

•**KBCS 91.3 FM** is the radio sation of Bellevue Community College (3000 Landerholm Circle SE, PO Box 92700, Bellevue, WA 98009-2037). From their Fall '88 playlist, they seem to be mostly into jazz, blues, folk, cajun and reggae, if you've got promos to send out.

•**Missing Link Music** (6920 Roosevelt Way NE #328, Seattle, WA 98115) is a distribution service for independent cassette labels. They stock a hundred or so tapes, plus their own "samplers" series to help you get acquainted with the possibilities. Try sending a buck for their 1989 catalog.

•**ON THE AIR** ($25 from Independent Music Services, PO Box 485, Sharon, PA 16146) is a very useful looking reference work for anyone who puts out or promotes independent music. Compiled for surveys done in late 1988, it's a directory to 250 radio stations in the U.S. and Canada that play indie music. Each listing gives: call letters, frequency, address, phone number, broadcast power, audience size, amount of air time given to indies, styled programmed, recording format, and information on whether they do interviews and live performances. Gummed labels of this list are also available, and IMS stands ready to answer further queries. Could fill some of the gap left by the demise of Pollution Control.

•**THE PLECID BROADSHEET** (SASE from 615 State St, Santa Barbara, CA 93101) is a legal-sized sheet of visionary ranting from one of the bands sponsored by the Audio Research Foundation. The introductory issue goes from a vision of a sexual universe to the wonder of laughter. #2 calls for realistic violence in the name of pent-up desires.

•**RadioPhage** has a show on CKDU-FM (6136 University Ave., Halifax, NS B3H 4J2, CANADA) and is interested in playing strange indie music along the lines of Thirwell, the Swans, Current 93, and Die Form. He also reads from rants and manifestoes and will give addresses for same over the air.

•**THE RAG MONTHLY** is the newsletter of the bands from Monsters O' Rock: Selves, Sub-Caps, Celebrants, and Sleeve Coat. To get on their mailing list just send a request to 30 Bellgrave Dr., Mahwah, NJ 07430.

•**RICE RADIO FOLIO** (PO Box 1892, Houston, TX 77251) is the tabloid playlist & whatnot sheet from KTRU stereo in Houston. Mostly playlist plus schedule, actually, so probably of marginal interest unless you expect them to play your music.

•**SLIPSTREAM** (PO Box 2071, New Market Stn., Niagara Falls, NY 14301) is looking for submissions for their fourth tape release. Spoken word, songs, collaboration, live readings and audio experimentation are all welcome.

•**SoundImages** (Martin Franklin, 17, Balis Rd, Slough, Berks., SL1 3PH, ENGLAND) is looking for "experimental/ambient/world music" for a compilation tape designed to "foster some sort of communication between artists working in a similar field, as a kind of musical mail-art.

•**STATIC BARKING** is the program guide of CKUT 90.3 FM, the alternative station at McGill University: Ste. B-15, 3480 McTavish St., Montreal, PQ H3A 1X9, CANADA.

•**STOREFRONT BAR-B-Q** is a small newsletter of reviews and happenings surrounding his chunk of the new music scene, put out by Shawn Swagerty, who is involved with **INDUSTRIAL DECAY QUARTERLY** as well as his own music. Try an SASE for a copy from 428 Ridge St. NW, Washington DC 20001-4622.

•**THE TONEBENDER** is a band newsletter on (who else?) the Tonebenders, available for an SASE from PO Box 5156, Hoboken, NJ 07030.

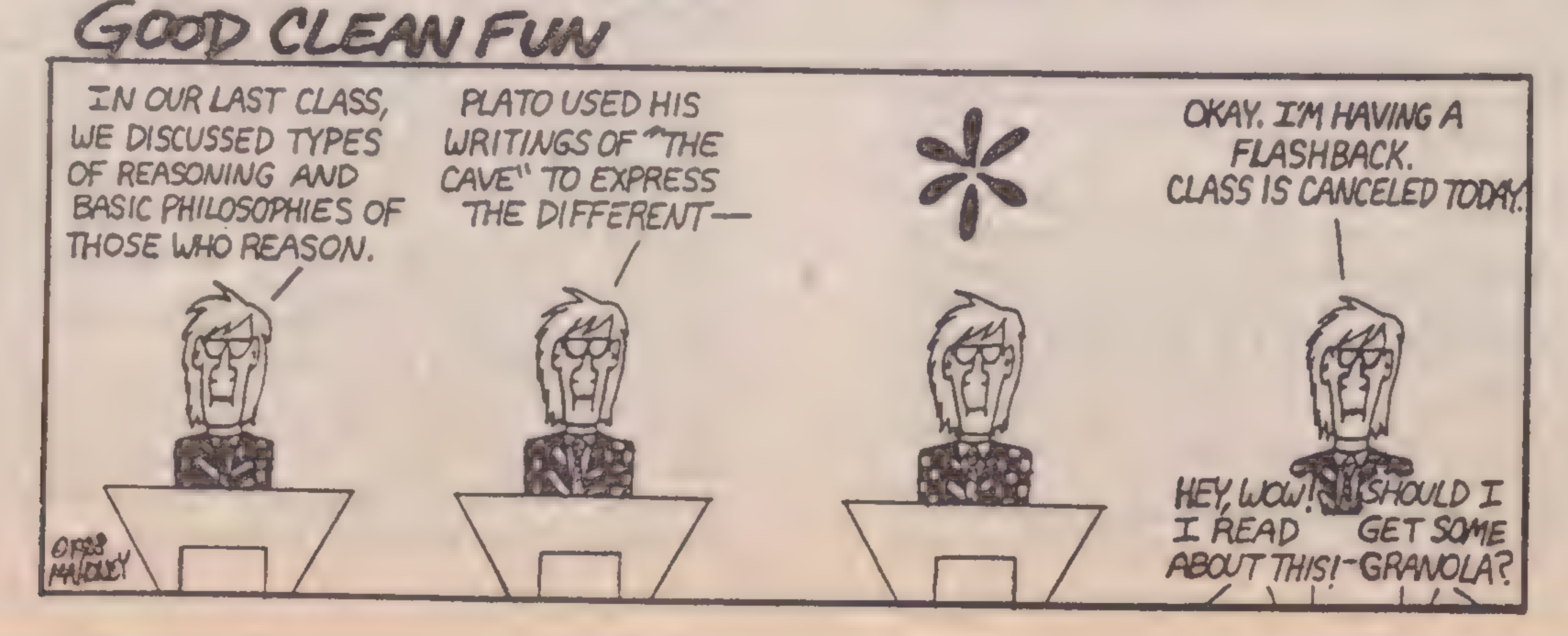
•**TROTTEL** (c/o Tamas Rupaszov, 2097 Pilisborosjeno, Patak u.8, HUNGARY) is offering "The first Hungarian punk LP", 6 songs, 30 minutes. It's not clear whether you should contact them directly or order from their western contact, Gougnaf Mouvement (35, rue Burdeau, 69001 Lyon, FRANCE).

•**THE TUNA TIMES** (PO Box 58, Flourtown, PA 19031) is a newsletter for Hot Tuna fans, offering band news and merchandise. A buck should get you a copy or two.

•**USED (but not abused) RECORDS** (PO Box 2456, Russellville, AR 72801) have a huge catalog of records for sale and auction — thousands and thousands of items. You can get on their mailing list for $10 a year.

•**WKDI** (544 College Ave., Dekalb, IL 60115) continues to crak out regular playlists loaded with indie recordings as well as the occasional major label product. Just two pages, but a reliable source of airplay info.

•**WNWK** sent me their latest few playlists. They seem to play a wide mix of new music, from Honeymoon Killers to Eek A Mouse. They also sell full-minute ad spots for $25 — if you're interested, write them at 477 82nd St., Brooklyn, NY 11209.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Joel Biroco, **KAOS**:

I think most who produce small magazines will agree that if it were a precondition that you never got to meet or love any of the people who read your magazine then you wouldn't bother doing it.

I dare say there would be those who would set up a magazine to protest at the authority which had prohibited you from meeting or loving your readers but who would want to meet them anyway?

No one expects to meet or love anyone worthwhile when first starting up a magazine. At the beginning it doesn't seem a conscious route, you bring out the magazine because you're interested in something, you want to write and exorcise yourself of writing by publishing it and you can't stand having someone stand in judgment of your work. A good reason to self-publish. Plenty of *reasons*. But I think it is the overwhelming desire to *connect* with other people, to find them, to reach out to them, that actually motivates you to put that message in the bottle and toss it into the sea and keep your fingers crossed. And it is all the *reasons* — "I am a writer"/"I have something to say"/"This cries out to be chronicled"/"who will publish it if I don't?" — it is all these reasons which stops one from being too embarrassed about going round tucking messages in bottles. Such a delicate interplay between desire you want fulfilled and being able to fulfill it by doing something else now, such as bringing out a magazine. Small magazines change peoples' lives in more unexpected ways than it's possible to imagine. Mainly because when you're imagining it it isn't real, but it you put that imagining on paper it becomes real through other people helping you to make it real. I went into the basement of a political bookshop the other day for my yearly perusal of the anarchist magazines. A good fifty magazines and all of them boring as hell. I could deduce that in five minutes. I couldn't hear any hearts beating. I shall not be setting up a new magazine to protest at the waste of trees on tedious magazines. I don't think it would be very interesting. I like to feel that everyone who reads **KAOS** is at least in with a chance of falling in love with me, that a few will end up in my bed, others will be cut down on the battlefield for daring to cross swords, and that the ones who never write back are simply overawed, or their mothers have confiscated my magazines from them, or that they harbour deep distrust of me, and those I am happy to curse in their absence. My hand is far too dainty to fit around a great big placard. I can rarely sustain a conversation with a walking lapel badge. So I figure that if I want to connect on *my terms*, which are kinda complicated right from the outset, then I have to publish and be damned. So it's a good job it's no chore. And, if I am as fortunate as I deserve to be, when I am dead people will say I was a genius, and, if I'm very lucky, possibly evil & dangerous and I shall be banned and have my works burned.

★★★★★

Peter Mantis, **ANTENNA, LOAFING THE DONKEY, & BONESAUCE**

Why publish? That's like asking why does it snow in the summer? Really, there is no real rational reason why people of all ages undertake the battle of the small press wars. A lot of my friends, and I suspect they are not alone, are rapidly getting put to sleep with the look and material of the many so-called publications that cater to whatever interest it may be: film, music, etc. Bored, with the cold, neutral, and anemic style of graphics and writing.

I guess the richest payoff is when your mail slot begins to fill up with requests for your zine. It's even nicer when the mail includes repeat business. I've made some great new friendships thru my zines and gotten some great input as well.

I took on Randy Russell's **SWEET RIDE**, 'cuz I wanted to try something different than **LTD**. I wanted to try something that wouldn't fit within the framework of what people out there expected from **LOAFING THE DONKEY**. I also didn't want **THE SWEET RIDE** to end up like it did, on a couple of dismal issues...I would like to think my three issue tenure of **SR** (10-12) were as good, if not better than the Russell era...which leads to my newest project, **ANTENNA**. **ANTENNA** will be **THE SWEET RIDE** and more, thus freeing **LTD** to reflect on more stranger cinematic journeys. Who knows, maybe one day **ANTENNA** will absorb **LTD**.

As a famous Minnesota fanzine connoisseur once wrote, **ANTENNA** may succeed where **LTD** couldn't. As long as you keep the front lawn mowed and the paint on the house isn't chipping, folks won't be afraid to come inside. "It's okay, man. C'mon in, never mind the polar bear." When ya got 'em hooked, maybe they won't mind being introduced to Cousin It.

So it goes with **ANTENNA**. As for you readers out there in the vast **FACTSHEET FIVE** universe, you're the beneficiary of a lotta great writing out there worldwide. To people such as myself, the payoff and our reward(s) is when that mailbox sings and it doesn't get any better than that...

★★★★★

Deborah & Michael Brownstein, **THE PAPER BAG**:

My wife and I decided to start a literary magazine with free contests because too often academia refused to take the small press poet and fiction writer seriously.

There are literally hundreds of markets for writers to submit their work, but too many reject submissions with only a form letter from the editors. We decided to become a market open to everyone and if we could not use a piece, we could at least explain why to the author and offer them other publications where they could send their work.

Sometimes we reject someone who everyone else accepts without knowing it. Some of the small presses are full of cliques and they make it hard for newcomers to join their stable of writers. We wanted to destroy the cliques, open up ourselves to everyone, and give everyone an equal chance.

Why publish? Because too many voices are not being heard and they should be, because every writer needs to start somewhere, because there is nothing like giving birth to a literary magazine and watching it flourish and grow and flourish some more.

★★★★★

Trev Faull, **OUTLET**:

I was a post-war baby, the fifties saw me taking piano lessons as my father before me had done. Music was ever present in the Faull household both recorded and live! I was Mr. Average at school although English was by far my best subject. In September 1960 I bought my first record, the Kingston Trio's "Bad Man's Blunder". It was the start of an obsessive hobby that flourished throughout the sixties. In 1974, having documented all my collection, track-by-track, I started making lists by artists of the best instrumental records I had collected during the past 14 years.

No one was publishing information on this music. I begin typing up groups, labels, lists and a minimal information about each. Other collectors were always pestering me to share this information so I began duplicating these lists and mailing them to colleagues. In the summer of '74 I decided to put a dozen pages together and **INSTRUMENTAL OBSCURITIES UNLIMITED** was born, ran to 25 issues over the following 6 years & was succeeded by the "brief" **INSTRUMENTAL REVIEW** for a mere 7 issues.

The more I wrote, the more I wanted to continue. I kept it cheap, simple, all mags duplicated & stapled — I was concerned with the content not so much the layout.

When my interests developed outside instrumental records I felt too restricted within the bounds of **IOU** and so amongst the coming of punk and true indie labels, **OUTLET** was founded in 1977, the first issue appearing in January 1978. Right now I'm working on Issue 38, it's still duplicated but I hope my layout has improved!

Last month when my hi-fi was "in pieces" for 4 weeks (for redecoration purposes) & no music was played, a strange thing began to happen, reviews began forming in my head at random. It was as if something in my brain hadn't told another part that I'd stopped listening to music and I found phrases/sentences appearing as I walked down the street. I'd look at records I had to review and mentally review them beforehand! It's all very eerie, but luckily music is back to fill the room. My wife of 18 years, Lesley must really be thanked for putting up with my whims, strange music, late hours, etc. She is not a fanatic, likes music in the "background" but she knows how much all this means to me.

If I didn't enjoy writing about music I'd stop. Each new issue gets me excited when I finally put it together even though I may have proof-read each page 3 or 4 times it's something new. I've never published for a particular market, I review music that interests me, I can't see anything changing in the foreseeable future.

*****

Kidd Smiley, **CRAMPED AND WET:**

It's punk.

*****

Gene Mahoney, **GOOD CLEAN FUN:**

Prior to the American Revolution, a discontented man by the name of Thomas Paine published a booklet entitled "Common Sense" explaining the tyranny that British rule inflicted upon his fellow colonists. His was just a small voice that grew to echo in the ears and hearts of our founding fathers. A small man, a small book his enemy didn't take seriously until it was too late. Don't laugh, but it was the fanzine heard 'round the world.

Today, thanks to outlets like **FACTSHEET FIVE**, we're able to hear the tiny voices of tomorrow's Thomas Paines denounce the atrocities being committed in Central America, South Africa, the Iron Curtain, and right here in our backyard.

Even if you're not out to change the world (or at least not in such a drastic fashion) self-publishing allows you to be yourself and express your real thoughts. Your real feelings.

Although there are some encouraging developments, the vast majority of the expression business is run by polyester schmukcs disguised in silk suits. They control the money and the money controls the creativity. they're afraid of real creative people — the real artists. Real artists say things. Sometimes unpopular things. Things that can change society. So they go after the safe bets (or imitations) to entertain the masses.

Safe bets, however, don't break ground. There is no longevity. Easy come, easy go. And that's where the importance of a real artist comes in. A "Loverboy" will be an instant hit while a "U2" will have to work at it. But it's worth it.

So publish. Make your voice heard. Be yourself. There's more to life than selling yourself short so a polyester schmuck can pay off his country club bill.

*****

Mary Fleener, **CHICKEN SLACKS:**

Presenting your work in a small book is way more attractive than carrying a bundle of xeroxes around,. It puts you in contact with people who have aspirations and goals similar to your own. When doing an anthology such as **CHICKEN SLACKS** you can see each issue get better as the enthusiasm of the artists increases and this responsibility, to put together a book to the best of your ability, *just because you like it* makes up for the pathetic monetary situation. That the contributors spend so much time on their work with no dollar signs in their heads is what true creativity is all about and I feel privileged to know such individuals.

*****

Aaron, **EXTORTION:**

WHY PUBLISH? Why does one wake up? To do something of course. Well, I publish to do something constructive that helps to release creative energies. I enjoy putting out a publication. Through the fanzine I meet interesting people and acquire the experience of putting words into action with the help of some friends. I get satisfaction from knowing that I'm giving exposure to different ideas from people who might not be able to express themselves elsewhere. Almost everyone I know that has worked for some kind of underground publication has walked away with positive feelings, or at least some sense of gratification. Do-it-yourself publications are some of the best methods to communicate with some cool traits of this wigged-out world. Whether you are a reader or a writer; it makes no difference, just as long as both can learn from each other. I will always try to publish something as long as people respond. Publishing helps to put my world into some kind of perspective. Without it, I wouldn't have anything to look forward to when I wake up.

*****

Lloyd Dunn, **PHOTOSTATIC:**

One publishes because one must; which is to say that *I* publish because I don't know what *else* to do to make my voice heard outside of the narrow confines of my home turf.

Owen O'Toole of Somerville MA writes to me that he read G. Youngblood in the **MILLENIUM FILM JOURNAL** 16/17/18 say that the thing that is unhealthy about our culture is that there are too few voices. Too few voices in the sense that commerce (via the mass media) speak in a collective voice concerning their collective project (which, the Situationists tell me, is the domination of human awareness by capital; the colonization of existence through the fragmentation of everyday life). They do this with such vigor that the banal everyday voices or even extraordinary but capital-less voices are drowned out in all the shouting to buy, I knew that even before I knew that; which is to say I knew it before it was so succinctly verbalized for me so that now I, as a retrofuturist, may repeat it whenever the situation calls.

Calling attention to ideas of far-reaching truth that are threatening to the status quo is certainly one good reason to publish. (In a lot of ways, we [United-States-of-Americans] do live in a great country, not a perfect country, but a great one: our postal system is the cheapest and the most reliable in the world.)

The function of small press (or rather one of the functions of the small press) is to create and engender a global conversation of ideas which are not served by power and capital (because they do not serve in turn power and capital). I do not place this *necessarily* in opposition to capital but rather (in most cases) alongside it; it could somehow be the small press' mission to pressure-valve messages which would otherwise be dissolved in the soup.

Technology, which corporate capital has given us (or rather sold to us) and is very accessible to most in the privileged industrial cultures (such as that in which we live) ironically has the power to destroy its maker in the sense that those who otherwise have no voice are handed the megaphones of xerox, audio and video tape, personal computer, etc. These are tools of dissent and attitude-changing, exactly as powerful (in potential) as anything the corporate establishment can throw at us.

So one sees there is no reason not to publish, *and* compelling reasons to do so.

*****

(A special note from the Aeditor: I am preparing to publish a collection of pieces on the theme "Why Publish", probably some time this fall. If you have any ideas for a feature article illuminating some part of the network of networks that is the small press, which interlocks in some way with this general theme, I'd love to hear from you).

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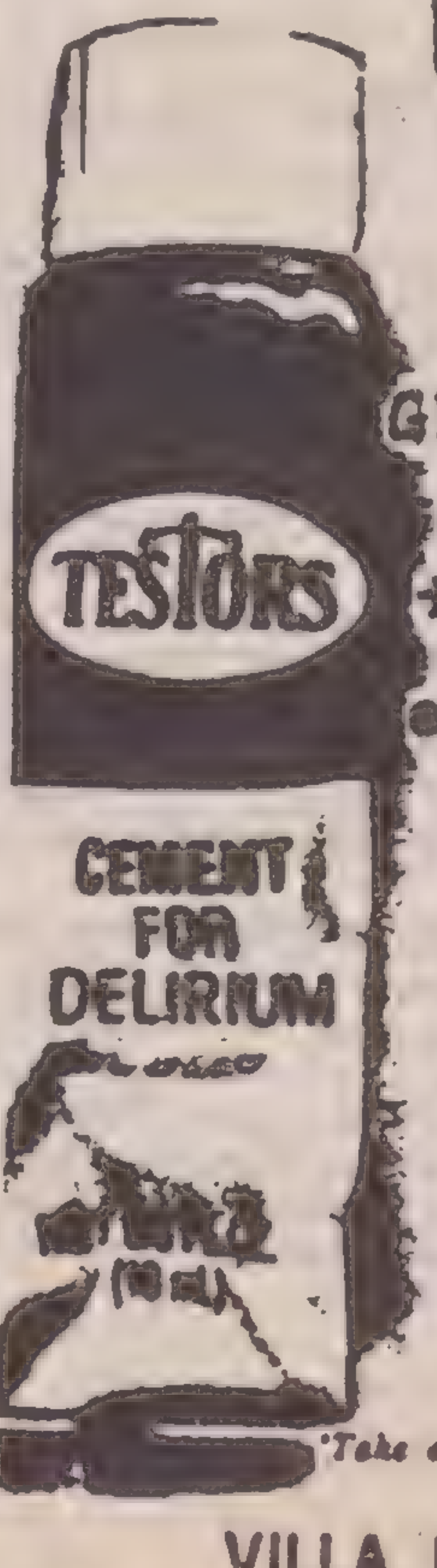

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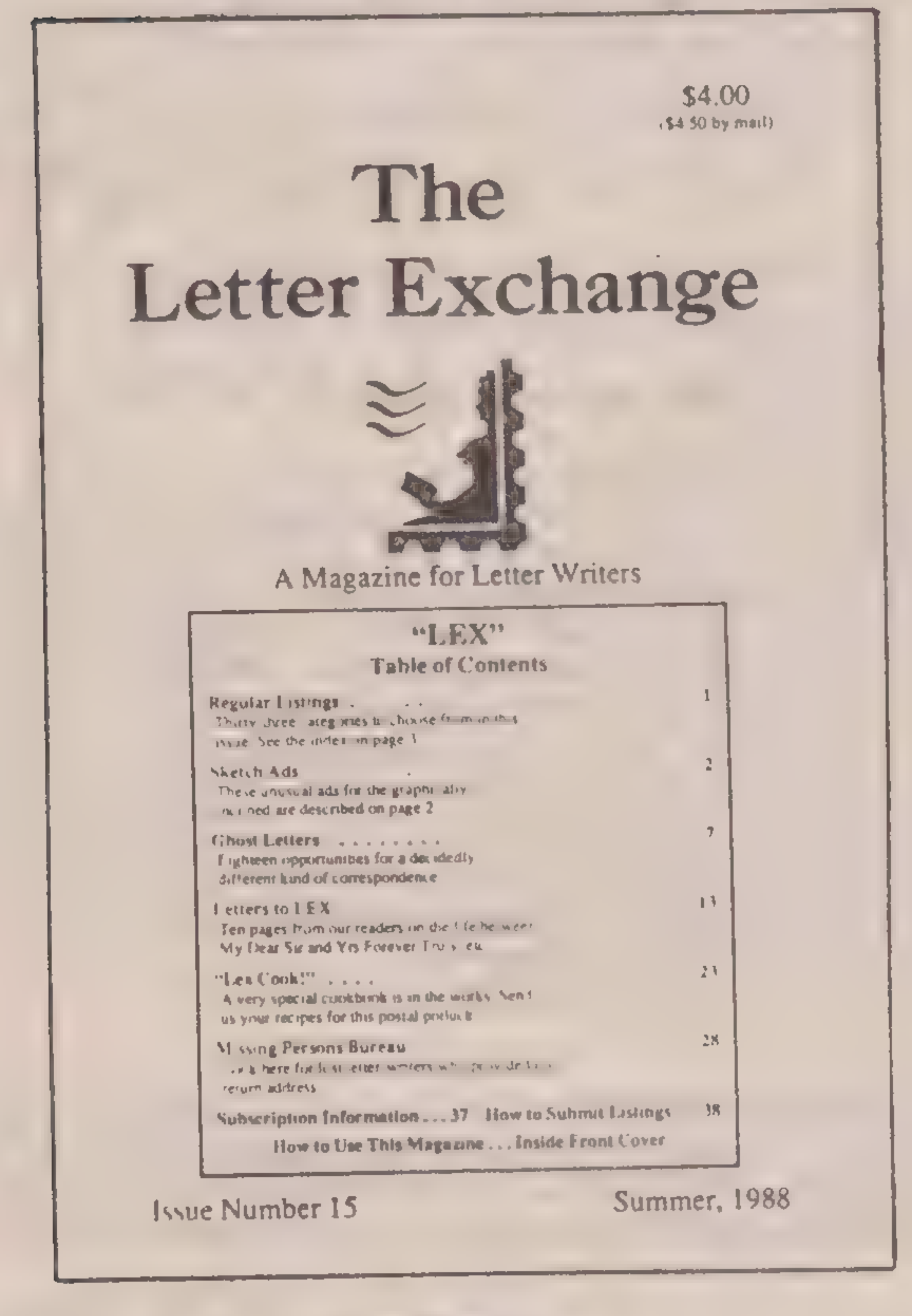

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The Letter Exchange

A Magazine for Letter Writers

"LEX"
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Issue Number 15 Summer, 1988

Vital Statistics:

Single issue, $5; One year (3 issues), $14; First Class delivery add 75¢ per issue. Canada $5/$15; overseas $6/$17, all payable in U.S. funds. Contact editor Steve Sikora, PO Box 6218, Albany, CA 94706.

Started in 1982, "as a tiny four-pager carrying the ads of nine desperate letter writers". Schedule was a bit rocky at first, but since #5 (Spring, 1985) it has come out three times a year on a Spring-Summer-Fall schedule.

THE LETTER EXCHANGE is 5 1/2 by 8 1/2 (digest size), and runs 40 typeset pages between cardstock covers per issue.

Paid circulation is about 2000, plus about 500 complimentary copies sent out for publicity.

The **FACTSHEET FIVE** library has a complete set of **THE LETTER EXCHANGE**, from #1 through #17 (Spring, 1989). The title has changed several times without affecting the numbering: #1-2 were **THE READERS' LEAGUE CATALOGUE OF CORRESPONDENCE**, and #3-7 were **THE LETTER EXCHANGE: A DIRECTORY OF CORRESPONDENCE**. The current title started with #8.

The idea behind **THE LETTER EXCHANGE** is relatively simple: to network together people who love to write so that they can then go off and deal with each other one-on-one rather than *en masse* mediated by fanzines. Subscribers may insert listings at 50¢ per word, indicating their interests (one of my favorites from the current issue: "Picasso was a mega-jerk; former worshipper seeks correspondence with intelligent life on this planet. No extraterrestrials.") and identified with a code-number. Anyone who reads the magazine can then send a response care of the zine, which will then be forwarded to the lister. Assuming that person is interested, voila, a new exchange of letters is born.

Does it work? Well, in a word, yes. Something over 7,000 people have used the service in the 7 years it's been around. In 1988 they forwarded 17,252 letters, which presumably spawned many tens of thousands more which did not have to go through the service. (Once the pump is primed, you're on your own.) I was involved quite early (My LEX Number, for those in the know, is 308; listings were around #3), and **LETTER EXCHANGE** put me in touch with around a dozen people. At least two of those correspondences still survive today, five years later; others are in hibernation but will probably resume eventually.

There's more to the zine than this, though. Steve publishes artwork and cartoons about mailboxes and letters, plus letters written to Lex. These are often quite entertaining, dealing with everything from the art of letter writing to the possible effects of Fax machines to quotes from famous folks about letters and mail. Over the years they've also surveyed strange and wonderful closings for letters. Finally, they also carry a small selection of commercial ads, for people who think they can tap this market of writers.

Over the years Steve has developed publishing systems that enable him to produce a neat and enjoyable, but stillr ecognizably small-scale and human, product. Printing is offset from laserprinted masters, set up on Ventura Publisher. (But Steve recommends using photocopy instead of offset until your circulation tops 500, since offset printing doesn't become cheaper until around that many copies and the modern photocopier is so good it's hard to tell the difference). He uses dBase III for mailing lists, financial records, taxes and of course the huge job of mail forwarding.

Promotion has been one spot where **LEX** (as it's affectionately known) has really outshone much of the fanzine world. Steve sends out lots of sample copies to the media, including the legitimate newspapers, and says "I've found this to be much cheaper and more effective than advertising". In the first five years of the zine there were about 80 articles published on it, with some — like the one in the **LA TIMES** — accounting for huge numbers of new subscribers. But, cautions, Steve, "Do whatever you can to persuade the news people to PRINT YOUR ADDRESS in whatever they write about you. When they don't, you can count on a big zero in consequent sales. Bob Greene's column, for instance, amounts to some pretty heavy firepower, appearing as it does not only in Chicago but in syndicated form throughout the country, but it brought me maybe half a dozen bites at most. Addressless in Chicago is like being eyeless in Gaza." Similarly, a Philadephia **INQUIRER** story, sans address, seen by millions, brought in 8 new customers.

I asked Steve to say a few words about the fanzine scene in general, which he was reluctant to do. But after some persuasion, he did consent to evaluate at least his own project: "I can say very little about this wholeheartedly, I'm afraid, because I'm a closet anti-ziner. An anti-publisher, that is: I love the private letter, the messages sent back and forth between only two people, the words we say to just one. Writing for publication comes very hard for me. I hate doing it and I say as little as possible in the pages of LEX. Broadcasting one's words to a hundred, a thousand, or a million strangers doesn't appeal to me. **THE LETTER EXCHANGE**, for that matter, is based on the premise that private words matter, that talking and listening to just one other person can be a sufficient end in itself. It's hard enough to do well, Lord knows. Understanding even a single individual and having that individual understand you — it takes some doing.

"So I'm uncomfortable in the world of publishing where the individual voice is broadcast far and wide. And I can say little about the zine scene. The body electric sings best for me on a two-party line, with a postage stamp on its forehead."

And sing it does, of course, for the thousands of people who've enjoyed this zine and its rather unique service: a way to get in touch with people, not to meet and marry them or even visit them, but just to communicate. I enjoy it, and if you're one of the vanishing few who still writes letters, you will too.

BOOKS
THERE'S NOTHING LIKE CURLING UP WITH A GOOD BOOK
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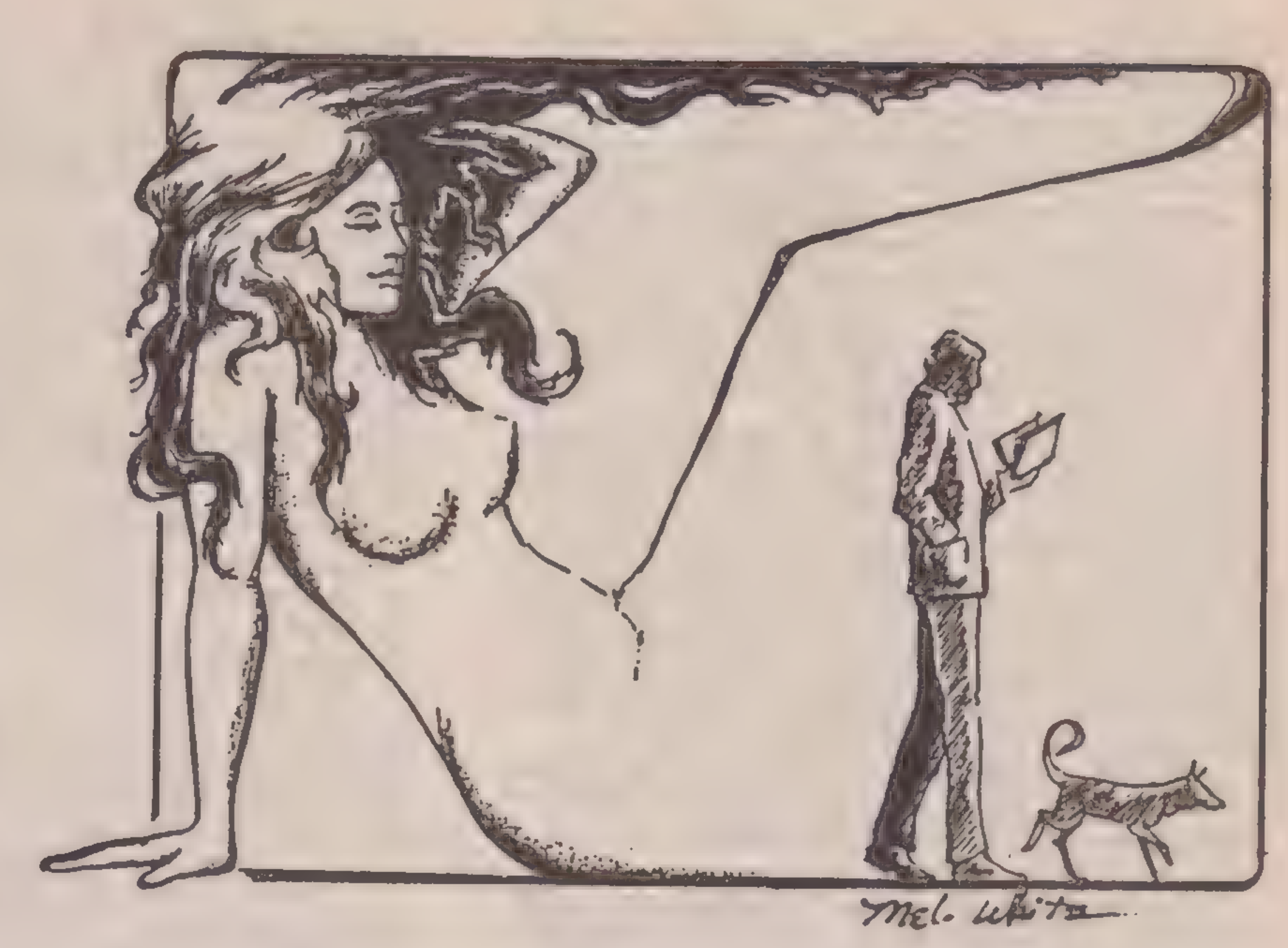

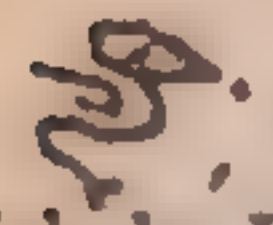**, BREED THE UNMENTIONED** ($5 from Secret Scholar Books, 615 State St., Santa Barbara, CA 93101): An enigmatic book from that enigmatic symbol that also issues tapes (see the MUSIC section of this FF). This is essentially a manifesto for being (or possibly only for recognizing) that wondrous being, the Master Great Cultural Figure, who spreads the germs of his ideas throughout the culture in the same manner that Typhoid Mary spread physical germs in hers. "Idiocy is contagious — moreso than genius." and "One must always be in utter pain." are only two of the many curious thoughts waiting to be entangled in this brief but pregnant work. (D-18)

★★★★★

Jason Alexander, **AYN RAND, LIBERTARIANS AND THE FIFTH REVOLUTION** ($10.95 from Sitnala Press, PO box 2730, San Francisco, CA 94126): Jason Alexander calls himself a "philoscientist" — which he defines as "a philosopher who knows what he or she is talking about." This book consists of a speech he made to the North Carolina Libertarian Party and an interview in which he explains — or tries to — a few of his ideas.

According to the introduction, Alexander is hot stuff. "As a champion of mankind he is the most original and farseeing writer of our day." Given this buildup, what do we find? Great "Laws" of mankind like "Man Lives Consistent" and "Realization Realized", wrapped in a dressing of homage to Ayn Rand (who, he allows, had part of the truth) and put-downs of "Lovers of Wisdom" who are trying to ruin our lives. Frankly, I couldn't make heads nor tails of most of this, and would put it in the same "pop sociology" category he puts Toffler and Naisbitt. Maybe I missed something, but I found this book neither inspirational, liberatory, nor even particularly coherent. (96 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Elizabeth Allen, **ALLEN'S DREAM BOOK OF NUMBERS** ($3.30 from EFP Enterprises, PO Box 5957, Lake Worth, FL 33466-5967): Written by "Elizabeth Allen, Psychic", this is an alphabetical index to dream concepts associated with numbers. For example, if you dream of a pyramid, the number is 118. Or dreaming of an infant means 742. Though the front cover trumpets "Bingo! Pari-Mutual Lottery Astrology", the last page states "No representation of any kind is made or intended by the author or publisher that the use of numbers from this book will bring about any results." Now, what did Barnum say was being born every minute? (D-48t)

★★★★★

Michael A. Banks & Ansen Dibell, **WORD PROCESSING SECRETS FOR WRITERS** ($14.95 & $2.50 p&h from Writer's Digest Books, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207): Most computer books aimed at beginners are miserable. They're either hopelessly out of date, biased towards a particular product, or full of misinformation. Having read far too many of these ripoffs, I was delighted to run across this book.

Banks and Dibell start by presuming that their writers know they want a computer, and can figure out how to run the operating system — in other words, that they are not total idiots. This book then weighs in with general advice (rather than system or software specific advice) about word processing, starting with an extensive discussion of the possible types of equipment one can buy and moving on to ideas about how to edit, build a database of markets, and otherwise save time with word processing.

Oh, sure, I caught a few nits to pick (they're wrong about the maximum memory on MS-DOS machines, for example, don't caution people to beware of free software from bulletin boards, and ignore the basics of modem shopping) but they're all minor points. Overall, the advice here is good, and the explanations are enough to make anyone a reasonably intelligent buyer rather than a sheep to be shorn. In fact, the section on computer basics is the best of its kind I've seen, and could do a lot of non-writers aspiring to computer purchases some good.

After the preliminaries are over, the authors try to cure "typewriter thinking" by giving some idea of what this new toy is good for — in the same easy, straightforward fashion as the rest of the book. The whole is wrapped up by a bit of a look at the market, which hits all the major players that I'm aware of while acknowledging that things change fast.

All in all, a first-class job for the beginner, with perhaps a few tips for the intermediate user as well.

★★★★★

Robert Basil (ed.), **NOT NECESSARILY THE NEW AGE: CRITICAL ESSAYS** ($19.95 plus $2.25 p&h from Prometheus Books, 700 East Amherst St., Buffalo, NY 14215-9918): A wonderfully skeptical and critical look at some of the worst excesses of the "New Age", though not quite the "balanced" examination editor Robert Basil wanted to end up with. (In particular, it seems that many of the writers were shooting at the easiest targets. I would have liked to see an articulate believer or two invited to directly participate in the debate). But considering how easily crap is believed today, that's not much of a failing; balance is not always called for.

The book leads off with two essays on the history of the New Age movement, by J. Gordon Melton, who goes back a century or so, and by James Webb, who concentrates on the 1960s. Both are well done and paint a good picture of the linkages of this "New" age to some very old ideas indeed. Then comes a section on the ideas of the New Age, which is the most uneven in the book. Martin Gardner and Philip J. Klass in particular are unable (or perhaps just unwilling) to transcend their own usual smarminess, and pepper their articles with gratuitous insults and asides. But they're balanced by folks like Paul Edwards, who makes a reasoned philosophical defense against reincarnation, and Maureen O'Hara, who recounts her own experiences in opposing the Hundredth Monkey and other pseudoscientific theories. Editor Basil talks with Brad Steiger without quite managing to pin down the shifty believer, while Leslie Berman's piece on New Age music seems simply irrelevant — would we judge the Third Reich on Wagnerian opera? Past lives, OBE's and UFO abductions also come in for criticism in this section.

Then comes a very strong section on the politics of the New Age community, highlighted by an especially good essay by WHOLE LIFE editor Marc Medoff on the Airplane Game, a pyramid con-scheme which was unabashedly promoted by many pillars of the New Age community. He names names and doesn't pull any punches, and shows us a batch of pretty unenlightened people at work.

A few more personal accounts close out the book. Ted Schultz provides a memoir of his own experiences both as a New Ager and as a science student, and Carl Sagan defends skepticism sensibly and without undue invective — these are, I think, the two strongest pieces in the book. Finally Alan MacRobert dismisses some obvious hokum and Al Seckel provides some pointers on spotting evasive arguments.

All in all, a book well worth reading to anyone concerned with the psychopathology of the New Age. It doesn't set out to prove that it's all crap, nor does it come to that position in the end — but it does represent a solid foundation of skepticism which any serious attempt to formulate a workable new system will have to overcome. (395 pp. hc)

★★★★★

Jean Baudrillard, **XEROX AND INFINITY** ($6 *cash* from Touch, 13 Osward Rd., London SW17 7SS, ENGLAND): A recent translation from the French put together into a snazzy little chapboook. Baudrillard's topic is actually somewhat wider than his title; he is concerned not with the technique of xerox but with the whole question of how our world is changing now that it is increasingly mediated by machines. He starts out with the notion that what "intelligent" machines offer is not thought, but a spectacle of thought, something which we can watch and relate to without having to strain ourselves. Slowly but surely, though, he traces the corresponding retreat from freedom involved in this notion, coming in the end to some dark conclusions indeed. Taking him seriously, one would be left with the desire to smash everything in the hopes of regaining authentic experience; meanwhile, this pamphlet makes fascinating reading. (A5-20t)

★★★★★

THE CLAYTON STORIES ($5 from Chris Kelly, 1101 Spearson Ln., Austin, TX 78731): An anthology of works from a science fiction writing and critiquing group in Austin, this set of stories cycles around a single theme. Clayton is "a quiet man who faithfully attends a science fiction study group yet never reads and rarely speaks. And he has this amazing secret life."

The writers have a lot of fun with this concept, ranging from excessively lurid aliens to Sanskrit myths. The quiet man turns out to be magic, or an alien, or an intelligent plant, or a robot or...well, there's a lot of possibilities here, as 11 writers contribute 14 stories. The whole is a lot of fun, and if many of these folks hit it big — as Don Webb is already starting to do — the autographed first edition could be something to wave at your friends some day. (S-55)

★★★★★

Lisa Collier Cool, **HOW TO SELL EVERY MAGAZINE ARTICLE YOU WRITE** ($11.95 plue $2.50 p&h from Writer's Digest Books, 1507 Dana Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45207): A nuts and bolts guide to the art of making a living from your writing. Cool's main argument is that if writing is your job, you should approach it professionally, writing so as to get the most money for your efforts. It makes sense to me, and she has some interesting things to say about it.

If you've considered magazine articles as something you could write, your approach has probably been to do the research, write the article, and then try to sell it. This is, according to this book, ass-backwards. You should sell it first, via a query letter (several chapters are devoted to market research and writing queries), then do the research and writing. But publication is not the end of the line, for you can also mine one article for years, either by selling reprint and foreign rights, or by cannibalizing it for later pieces. Collier gives hints on these too.

This is not another book of cheerleading for the struggling writer, but rather a job manual. Other topics covered include the basic legalities (copyright, libel, and suing your publisher to get payment that's overdue), the editing process at a magazine, what various rights are, and how to do an interview. There are also sections on some of the major markets plus a chapter which shows an actual article before and after reworking. In sum, a useful manual for a particular type of writing, and full of hints I hadn't seen before. (214 pp. tpb)

[I've been reviewing quite a number of writing manuals here on the theory that a lot of you readers are writers or would-be writers. Does this make sense to people?]

*****

Douglas Crimp (ed.), **AIDS: CULTURAL ANALYSIS, CULTURAL ACTIVISM** ($10.95 + $2.50 p&h from MIT Press Bookstore, 292 Main St., Cambridge, MA 02142): An absolutely first-rate collection of pieces on AIDS, focusing not on the disease itself but on its effects on our culture and society. 15 essays in all discuss responses within the homosexual community, the medical establishment, and the media, painting a startling and ultimately shocking picture of irresponsibility and misunderstanding in our attempts to come to grips with AIDS.

Although almost all the contents struck me as excellent, I wish to mention several essays that seem particularly good. Jan Zita Grover looks at the language of AIDS in "AIDS: Keywords", showing the patterns and implications of, for example, the persistant press usage of "AIDS Victim" instead of "Person With AIDS". Paula Treichler pulls together some of the current research from sociology of science to evaluate the process of social reality construction in her "AIDS, Homophobia and Biomedical Discourse: An Epidemic of Signification". Max Navarre's "Fighting the Victim Label" explains succinctly the motives and thoughts behind the founding of the PWA Coalition in New York City, and is followed by a series of key excerpts from their journal **PWA COALITION NEWSLINE**. Carol Leigh's "Further Violations of Our Rights" discusses the impact of AIDS on the professional prostitute, a group which has a very *low* incidence of HIV infection. Finally, Douglas Crimp evaluates both mainstream and marginal media responses in "How to Have Promiscuity in an Epidemic", providing an expecially good critique of the Shilts book **AND THE BAND PLAYED ON**.

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All in all, a very thought-provoking collection, simultaneously good politics, good social science, and civil rights in action. Should be read by anyone who's going to write even casually about AIDS or those living with it — a vastly sensitizing experience. (272 pp. tpb)

*****

X. Sharks DeSpot,**NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS ABOUT JOHN DILLINGER, GOLDIE HAWN, ROWAN & MARTIN'S LAUGH-IN, REICHSBANK GOLD STOLEN IN 1945 AS ALLIES ADVANCED AGAINST GERMANY** (Available "for the things described in its title" from 2225 Montego Dr., Lansing, MI 48912): DeSpot is sel-described as the "chatterbox/idiot/genius/madman/fool of lansing MI", and this is a collection of three of his shorter pieces, which can fairly be called rants. "Hoover Boys" is the tale of some human remains discovered during the demolition of an old building and a quick coverup on the part of the government. "Fedora Rant" attempts to predict the shape of society around the year 2000, using men's hats as the jumping off point. "I Fucked the Donkey" is part of a longer story set around that same time, featuring a number of marginals in the context of a rollicking future history of repression and unrest. Overall, this stuff is somewhat hard to follow and definitely a few bricks shy of a full load — in other words, just the sort of thing that goes well among marginal types. (S-17)

*****

Marc Dubin & Enver Lucas, **TREKKING IN TURKEY** ($9.95 from Lonely Planet publications, Embarcadero West, 112 Linden St., Oakland, CA 94607): Another solid effort from this purveyor of nitty-gritty guides for the adventurous traveler. This time the subject is Turkey, more specifically Turkey away from roads: the authors are hard-core enough about their hiking to frown on walking tractor roads rather than authentic foot trails.

After some preliminary information (presented with the usual Lonely Planet thoroughness: they give the phone number of the only shop in Turkey selling butane stove fuel cartridges, for example), the book is split up geographically. Each section gives a basic map plus notes on where to walk and what to see while you're there. These range from the well-trampled route up Mount Ararat (or Agri Dag, as they prefer — a basic Turkish lexicon is included) to some gossip on trails in the currently-closed Kurdish region around Lake Van. Especially useful-looking are the notes on climate and lodgings.

If you've always ached to grab a pack and walk somewhere that the traditional culture is still available, sprinkled with both history and striking scenery, then this may be just the book you've been waiting for. (152 p. pb)

*****

Francoise Duvivier, **L'ECRIVAN CAVERNEUX** (60 f. from F. Duvivier, 18 allee des Orgues de flandre, 75019 Paris, FRANCE): One problem with magazines is that because of their limited space, one can only get a taste of the possibilities of an artist. This book remedies that in one case, as it is completely devoted to the wide rage of works of Francine Duvivier. The book consists of poetry and graphic art, as well as art that is a compromise betweem images and words. They blend well together and project a cold, existential theme. It is a penetrating insight into the world of the editor of **METRO RIQUET**. (120pp. tpb) [Guest review by Stuart McCook]

*****

Glaister A. Elmer & Evelyn E. Elmer, **ETHNIC CONFLICTS ABROAD: CLUES TO AMERICA'S FUTURE?** ($4 from American Immigration Control Foundation, PO Box 525, Monterey, VA 24465): Paper #8 in the AICF monograph series. Written by a pair of sociologists, this paper has a three-part structure. The introductory section defines some concepts and basically sounds a warning about the danger of ethnic strife whenever two or more ethnic groups live in a single region, and points out that the WASPs will be a minority in the US in not too many more decades. Part 2 surveys ethnic conflict around the world and in history, with cases from about 80 countries, Afghanistan to Zimbabwe. Part 3 then attempts to make some predictions for the future of the United States — their idea is that things will get bad, with squabbling among minority groups as well as a potentially explosive showdown between the Rainbow Coalition and a possible "Viking Coalition" of Northern European descent. In the last few paragraphs they propose a solution — severe limitation of immigration as soon as politically possible. To buttress this idea, they quote one authority, whose name has been bandied about the underground as a racist for some time now: deep ecologist Edward Abbey.

There's one basic question for the critical reader of this book, and that's whether the proximity of two ethnic groups always leads to ethnic violence. You can make a good historical case for this — except, of course, history doesn't prove a damned thing. People *could* grow up, we *could* find a way to approach some synthesis of the melting pot and minority pride. I don't necessarily think that we will — but anybody the least bit progressive will work in this direction, rather than trying to make America a WASP enclave on the grounds that the alternative is endless civil war. (S-56t)

*****

M.L. Endicott, **VAGABOND GLOBETROTTING: STATE OF THE ART** (Revised Edition; $8.95 from Enchiridion International, Cullowhee, NC, 28723-2589; "We will honor direct retail orders, but prefer people to order from their local bookstore."): This is a no-frills, information-packed travel manual for the global vagabond. The distinction between *travel* and *tourism* is crucial; this is for the person who wants to spend a lot of time abroad immersed in another culture, not for the one who wants to buy ritualized leisure as part of a vacation.

Endicott has been all over the place and offers an immense amount of practical information and experience. Among the many topics covered are what papers to carry, how to protect your health, opportunities for making money abroad without a work permit, and what gear to take. This is not a guidebook for any particular area but rather an adjunct for travel to any area. If you're interested in travelling on the cheap, take a look at it. Includes an extensive bibliography and index and many notes on other sources of information. (176 pp. tpb)

*****

Stewart Home, **THE ASSAULT ON CULTURE: UTOPIAN CURRENTS FROM LETTRISME TO CLASS WAR** (Aporia Press; $8 from Libertarian Book Club, 339 Lafayette St. #202, New York, NY 10012): In this short book Stewart Home, the "Karen Eliot" of the London **SMILE**, charts the passage of a few persons through a rather brief period of time. "Utopian Currents" is a poor choice of words to describe Home's subject, various *avant garde* groups from the 1940's to date whose inclusion is almost as arbitrary as the author's use of italics. What they share (but not only with each other) is the fusion — or confusion — in various proportions, of experimental art and radical politics.

This is the coverage (semi-colons separate chapters): COBRA; the Lettriste Movement; the Lettrist International; the College du Pataphysics, Nuclear Art and the International Movement for an Imaginist Bauhaus; from the First World Congress of Liberated Artists to the founding of the Situationist International; the SI (three chapters, including an account of a Second SI in Scandinavia and Germany unmentioned in any English-language treatment of the SI); Fluxus (two chapters); Gustav Metzger and Auto-Destructive Art; Dutch Provos, Kommune I, Motherfuckers, Yippies and White Panthers (worthlessly superficial, needless to say); Mail Art (two chapters); Punk; Neoism; and Class War (an English anarchist confrontational group). Although Home believes these outfits ventured little beyond their forbears Futurism and Berlin Dada, after a couple of summary paragraphs he fast-forwards a generation through Surrealism, the "Bretonian glaciation", to the late 1940s.

These groups are of roughly two sorts. On the one hand there are predominantly aesthetic tendencies whose political overtones Home is wont to exaggerate — COBRA, Fluxus, and (of all things) Mail Art, for instance. The history of Fluxus, for example, is the history of founder George Maciunas' losing battle to infuse his own ramshackle leftism into the others. These groups sought to break down barriers dividing artistic disciplines from each other and impeding art from assuming a central position in modern life. Thus they often got very interested in architecture and urban planning although they would seem to have accomplished nothing in either field.

On the other hand there are the groups which, starting from politicized aesthetics, set out for a social revolution in which life would realize and suppress art — notably the Lettriste International and the Situationists, for whom Home exhibits a hatred disproportionate to the instances of dishonesty and delusional thinking which he exhumes. No doubt they need to be taken down a peg or two, but Home is perhaps not the one to denounce their theoretical method as "to present gross generalization as incontestable fact" after writing off Paris Dada and Surrealism, for instance, with a couple poorly written paragraphs replete with querulous quotations from some of their dropouts. It is good to learn that the "aesthetic" faction run out of the SI by the politicos regrouped and were very active in Germany and Scandinavia, that they were more "tolerant" (eclectic?) and their zines had more graphics and quotes (sounds like the North American marginals zines which Home *doesn't mention*) but Home expects us to accept his unsubstantiated judgment that they were — what? — more creative or moral than the evil Debordists?

Although the book opens with an epigraph from John Sinclair of the White Panthers, Home clearly knows nothing about what you might think was his subject, the counter-culture (60's-style) — he gets his dates on the White Panthers wrong and says nothing about Beats, hippies, Discordians, SF fandom, anarchists (except for the abrupt appearance of Class War), anything *American* except those grouplets that impinged on England by mail (like Mail Art) or frequent sorties there (Fluxus, Neoism). He's a Brit chauvinist, and a stick-in-the-mud too. He pedantically relates that the influence of situationism on punk was not as great as that of "futurism, dada, the motherfuckers, fluxus and mail art" — he doesn't even *suspect* that what punk is mainly about is *rock'n'roll*, y'know, *music*. He approves of mail art's democratic methods — conceding most of it's crap, though — but doesn't see it as just one dimension of the mail-based *marginals milieu*. Besides, who can take seriously a book on contemporaneous utopianism that doesn't even *mention my name*? [Guest review by Bob Black].

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★★★★★

Stewart Home (ed.), **PLAGIARISM: ART AS COMMODITY AND STRATEGIES FOR ITS NEGATION** ($6 *cash* from Touch, 13 Osward Rd., London SW17 7SS, ENGLAND): A collection of short pieces issued in connection with the Festival of Plagiarism in London early in 1987. Many of these were previously published in obscure art movement magazines, but it's certainly convenient to have them in one place. Though the authors are a diverse and argumentative lot, some themes continue through several pieces — in particular, they are concerned with the appropriation by capital of the art world (the criminalization of plagiarism being seen as a parallel, though I think a far-fetched one, to the enclosure acts). Various ways to subvert this are proposed, from simple acts of plagiarism to more far-reaching acts such as the proposed 1990-1993 art strike. Contributors include Stewart Home, Karen Eliot, Klaos Oldanburg, and Bob Jones — a majority of whom, of course, are constructed identities for multiple entities. (A5-30t)

★★★★★

Inverted-A, Inc., **DRY COLLECTION OF SUBVERSIVE LITERATURE** (from 401 Forrest Hill, Grand Prairie, TX 75051): A collection of letters, essays, and short fiction. The letters, mostly by Amnon Katz — who seems to be the main moving force behind the Inverted-A organization — are to public officials and various other celebrities and explore and promote a sort of libertarian conservative view of the world. He opposes everything from government spending to affirmative action, and apparently wants a simpler, tougher society. Katz also provides a bit of criticism of Ayn Rand, pointing out the flaws in the Objectivist vision and organiation.

The fiction is where things shine here, in particular in A.A. Wilson's story "Damned in Hell", which takes a fresh look at Jehovah and Satan and their eternal battle. It's sort of tongue in cheek, yet makes a deep point about freedom and responsibility while it's having a good time.

In sum, an enjoyable collection that repays the time to read it. (144 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Mary Lynn Skirvin Johnson, **ADVENTURES IN THYME AND SPICE** ($12 plus $3 shipping [via UPS — street addresses only!] from Mary Lynn Skirvin Johnson, 901 Lorlyn Dr. #3B, West Chicago, IL 60185): A fannish cookbook whose profits are going to a couple of charities (The International Snow Leopard Trust and The Make A Wish Foundation). 181 recipes in total, many of them just good traditional food for people who like to eat (pizza, chili, dips, cookies, and much more). There are a few crazy fannish things, like Jello designed to simulate Jupiter (complete with great red spot), a do-it-yourself mock worm recipe, and the story of the chocolate chip cookies that turned into an apple cake. There's even one way to electrocute yourself while cooking hot dogs (caution is advised). It's all put together with plenty of fun illustrations and spiral bound to lie flat on your kitchen counter. I can't do much taste-testing here — there's something under a dozen recipes on my diet (vegan) — but things sure do look good. (S-114)

★★★★★

Bill Kaysing, **HOMES FOR THE HOMELESS** ($1 [free to the homeless] from Holy Terra Church, PO Box 832, Soquel, CA 95073): Brainstorming in print as to what to do about homelessness. Kaysing suggests a great number of things, including many ways — fishing boats, farms and ranches, railroad work crews — to trade labor for shelter. He also talks about cooperating with others to live more cheaply, and about various sources for support and ideas on living lightly. But perhaps the main focus is on the "Minigranny", an 8 by 12 foot shelter that can be constructed for about $1,000. Constructing these, in fact, is one of the main activities of the Holy Terra Church, so they're putting their money where their mouths are. Of interest to anyone wanting or needing to find cheap shelter. (S-80)

★★★★★

Frank Key, **HOUSE OF TURPS** (£3 from Malice Aforethought Press, 328 Brettenham Road, London E17 5AU, ENGLAND): A curious and delightful little booklet. Key writes in a sort of manic academic stule, tracing the life of the obscure chemist-chieftain Slobodan Curpin, as he staggers through the early days of the scientific revolution. Experimental windsocks, poultice-making, and a civilization beneath the Arctic ice all make perfect sense here. Much better than the usual dusty textbook treatment of this sort of thing. Maddeningly sensible and dissonant at the same time. (A5-36t)

★★★★★

Dr. Jeffrey Lant, **MONEY TALKS** (Second Revised Edition) ($34 from Jeffrey Lant Associates, Inc., 50 Follen St. #507, Cambridge, MA 02138): A newly-revised work from a man whose enthusiasm for being successful is both inspiring and contagious. This one, subtitled "The Complete Guide to Creating a Profitable Workshop or Seminar in Any Field", is directed at the would-be lecturer in all of us. Using Lant's methods, and some good old-fashioned hard work, it seems not unreasonable to assume that you could make $5000 in your first year (assuming you know something about your field) — and much more after that.

There's a lot more to this than just learning how to speak in public (indeed, the specific advice on this is only a minor, though important, part of the book). Lant treats public speaking as a business and shows you how to go about it professionally, from making the contacts in adult education to get started, to ultimately getting an agent and speaking many times a year at $1000 a shot. He's especially good on how to leverage your public speaking through related marketing opportunities (books, tapes, consulting, and more) to get the most benefit from your audience. There's a lot here I never thought of myself, and no doubt a lot that will be news to you too.

The best thing about Lant's books is that they are precise and specific, with contact addresses and recommendations for ways to get more information, financial details (on such things as making your own tapes vs. hiring a pro), and real-life stories from his own extensive lecture experience. He even supplies sample letters and brochures to help you land the first few crucial engagements. In fact, it looks like the only thing you'll need beyond this book and a topic is a rather brash faith in your own self-worth. If this sounds like you, you should probably give this book a try. If you're not sure, write to Jeffrey and ask to be put on the mailing list for his quarterly **SURE-FIRE BUSINESS SUCCESS CATALOG** — it's free, and tells a good deal about his various books and programs. (308 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

King Marc Eric Augustus Rex, **EVERY MAN HIS OWN ATTORNEY** ($5 (?) from Central News Service, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): This booklet opens with yet another essay explaining, this time under the heading of "The Purpose of Law", Marc's theory of monarchy as the best form of government. It then gives details of the legal system he has invented to serve the federation of household monarchies over which he presides. A history of his efforts in this area follow, plus a glossary and various blank legal forms. It all strikes me as an absurd game, passingly similar to those I and my friends engaged in about 20 years ago. The difference is that I was never under the impression that Vegetia actually existed as a sovereign state, nor did I think I had discovered the perfect theory of government. (HL-40r)

★★★★★

King Marc Eric Augustus Rex, **TEN MILLION HAVE DIED** ($5 from Central News Service, PO Box 7075, Laguna Niguel, CA 92677): A collection of essays — some several years old — from the man behind the idea of household monarchies, as well as sundry news clippings tending to show the world in trouble thanks to nation-states (somewhat similar to the approach of the **SOUTHERN LIBERTARIAN MESSENGER**). Topics include the reclamation of monarchy as a term of approval, the definition of society, the legal worthlessness of the Constitution, and the opposition of the police to the people. Not a lot here that he hasn't said before, but it's a representative sample of his works and thought. (HL-44)

★★★★★

Dave Meltzer (ed.), **THE WRESTLING OBSERVER NEWSLETTER 1988 YEARBOOK** ($12.50 from PO Box 1228, Campbell, CA 95009-1228): An impressive compendium on the year past in pro wrestling. It leads off with a synopsis of the top news stories in the field, then goes into the **WRESTLING OBSERVER** awards, as voted by a number of knowledgeable fans. These are placed in context, both of the current field and its history, by short essays. The book also features biographies of Bruiser Brody, Akira Maeda, Hulk Hogan and other important personalities of the year, a directory of those currently active in the field, and more. A very nicely produced effort that will teach you the ropes, so to speak, of pro wrestling. (L-90t)

★★★★★

Edmund R. Meakys (ed.), **THE ONCE AND FUTURE ARTHUR** ($5.95 from Niekas Publications, RFD 2, Box 63, Center Harbor, NH 03226-9729): A special supplement to the science fiction fanzine **NIEKAS** — and a very impressive supplement it is. This is a set of articles, speculations, and reviews centering around what is probably the most enduring story in the English language: that of King Arthur and the knights of the round table.

There's quite a selection here. Probably the biggest name involved is Marion Zimmer Bradley, who talks about her "Search for Morgaine le Fay" at some length, explaining how she deduced the suppressed role of women in the truth behind the legend. Other writers look at the connections of Arthur to more modern ideas of reinacarnation, John Steinbeck's attempts at rewriting the legend, and a variety of historical scholarship on the subject.

The last word on Arthur isn't in this book, and I suspect it will never be written. Indeed, the variety of theories seeking to explain the history behind the myth reminds me of the competing conspiratologists' views of the Kennedy assassinations. But there's more than enough here to interest any student of the matter, plus references to get into the literatue. And oh yes, the writing is interesting and the production excellent as well. (S-72t)

★★★★★

Stormy Mon, **IMAGINE FREEDOM FROM GOVERNMENTS AND CHURCHES** ($10 from Libertarian Library, PO Box 24269, Denver, CO 80224): A selection of quotes and short essays, arranged somewhat haphazardly, to try and get the basic ideas of freedom across. Stormy is a libertarian and (I think) a Taoist — two visions that seem to work rather well together.

The first half of the book is devoted to the government — well, considering his attitude, maybe "devoted" isn't the right word. It takes a strong stance in favor of civil liberties, jury nullification, and privatization. The flavor of this section comes through in one short quote: "You are invited to make a simple, common sense observation, Do the city planners ever worry if there will be enough newspapers and churches? No, never. Why? Because under the First Amendment, governments are hardly involved in those two activities. Are there always enough newspapers and churches? Yes, ALWAYS, because the libertarian free enterprise system works — perfectly."

Having finished with government, Stormy turns to religion (rule of thumb: don't trust anybody speaking Latin in a long robe, whether they're a judge or a priest). This section leads off with an examination of various scriptures — Mormon, Christian, Muslim — for sense and contradictions. Naturally, none of them fare well. Then there's another barrage of essays and quotations pointing out the oppressive parallels between big religion and big government, as well as the contrasting advantages of a more organic, personal approach to spirituality.

This book is written on a primer level for those who may not have been exposed to libertarian ideas before, but it's still a useful reference for the more experienced, thanks to the hundreds of quotations. If you want a famous person to quote on education, or the absurdity of prayer in war, or the problems of democracy, it's here, arranged by topic and indexed by author. A nice collection. (S-189)

★★★★★

Tuppy Owens (ed.), **THE (safer) SEX MANIAC'S ADDRESS BOOK** ($10 from Tuppy Owens, Box 4ZB, London W1A 4ZB, ENGLAND): A companion pocket-book to the **SEX DIARY AND DATEBOOK** reviewed last issue. A pocket sized hardcover, this one has a lot of design effort involved. There's a section for each letter of the alphabet, starting out with a reproduction of a work by an erotic artist whose name starts with that letter. Then there is a list of "Pioneers and Reformers" in the field of sex. The address spaces themselves (for you to fill in) are flanked by small erotic illustrations, while each blank is headed by some suggestive phrase; "O", for example, has space for "Orchestrator", "Obedient", "Odd", "One Nighter", and more. A cartoon alphabet allegory of safe sex meanwhile proceeds along the bottom of the pages. It's all delightfully good-humored, and a definite step up from the traditional black book. (100 pp. hc)

★★★★★

Don Paul, **GOOD INTENTIONS** ($7 from Hart's Spring Works, PO Box 33-0178, San Francisco, CA 94133): A novel of the late Sixties — the time of bombings and revolutionary fervor — with a vast sweep and intricate detail. The closest thing I've read to it is Edward Lucas White's **EL SUPREMO**, but as you're not likely to have run across that, it won't be much help to make the comparison. Think instead of the weighty novels from the nineteenth century that your college literature classes threw at you. Now imagine them populated with modern youth and fervor, and with the pace cranked up a bit to raise the excitement pitch, and you may begin to grasp the texture of this book.

The basic story here is relatively simple. A group of six young folks in Seattle are getting ready to blow up a quartet of symbols of oppression, issue the usual communiques and calls for revolution, and go underground. Meanwhile a relatively straight guy, Ron Sorenson, is getting fed up with his standard issue middle-class life. Various other folks are going about their daily business, doing what they have to do to survive. Paul skillfully weaves all of these together into one complex plot, demonstrating both the futility of one type of revolution and (ultimately) the hope of another.

The most breathtaking thing here is the wealth of detail. Whether it's the programmatic arguments between anarchists and Marxists, the technique of playing trumpet, a gourmet meal or the intricacies of dentistry, Paul has a fine taste for detail and the style to deliver it. This is a novel you can get immersed in, with plenty of depth for an extended swim. Best of all, its central concerns are still vividly important today. (434 pp/ pb)

★★★★★

Don Paul, **LAWRENCE AND MANN OVERARCHING: ONCE UP THE COUNTRY OF UJAMAA: ROLL AWAY DER ROCK AND OTHER ESSAYS** ($5 from Hart's Spring Works, PO Box 33-0178, San Francisco, CA 94133): A collection of essays in a rather classical mode: unhurried, thoughtful, and erudite. Paul pays close attention to style here, being sure to give the reader ample details and ideas for his money and proving — as he argues in "'Nashville,' Novels and Now", that print can be a richer medium than film.

While I'm not particularly qualified to comment on the lead essay — 200 pages of comparison of the lives and works of D.H. Lawrence and Thomas Mann — I can mention a few of the shorter pieces I appreciated. "Roll Away Der Rock" is concerned with the music of two eras, the sixties and the beginnings of punk. Incredibly enough, Don manages to appreciate both, pulling each apart to see what looks useful for the future of society. "In From the Woods; Against the Money-Order" uses his experiences in a logging camp to argue against the capitalist order, pointing out the basic injustice of taking all of the risks (and nasty ones they are in this case) while not receiving all of the benefits. Paul also discusses the prospects for revolution in Tanzania in the early 70's (well, he happened to be there) and tries to appreciate **GRAVITY'S RAINBOW** (ultimately, though, I think he is defeated, as are most readers, by the sheer scope of Pynchon's work). I think the whole was well done; if you know Mann and Lawrence, buy a copy and let me know how the first essay stacks up. (355 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Gayle Dawn Price & Judith Polich (compilers), **MAINE WELL-BEING 1988-1989** ($6.25 from Network News Publications, HC31 Box 168, Phippsburg, ME 04562): A comprehensive guide to a variety of people involved in creating a new holistic model of the world. Although health care is at the core of this model, the listings here range from hair styling through natural foods and restaurants to marital counseling and financial services. For each category of services (over 150), there is a brief description of what the field is all about (just in case Iridology or Reiki are new to you), and then listings of practitioners with contact information and notes on their training and specialties. Should you find yourself in Maine and in need of a homeopath or a massage therapist, this book would be invaluable. A very reasonably-priced directory. (158 pp. pb)

★★★★★

Dave Reissig, **THE POWER PAGES: FORBIDDEN IDEAS UNDER LIBERALISM** ($2 from Hitheryon House, PO Box 452, Syracuse, NY 13201): Dave has been generating pamphlets of strange ideas for a number of years, and this is apparently meant to be his crowning work. It's written in the same disjointed style as his other works, hopping from fragments of mysticism (a theory of reincarnation that preserves the soul but not the personality) to politics to clever aphorisms ("The chief duty of the President of the United States is to appoint people to the Supreme Court who don't know how to smoke dope or lick pussy."). But the major thrust of this work is political; Dave plugs a sort of rough-and-ready anarchy as an antidote to the current concentration of power.

It's his ideas about this current concentration that edge this booklet over into the "forbidden" area, and it's easy to see why. One sentence sums up his political argument: "America means Jews with power." Dave's thesis is that the Jews invariably take over by imposing a system of "religious capitalism", which brings out a justified anti-Semitic backlash. Needless to say, I think this is nonsense. Anyone who cares to do the briefest of investigations can confirm that there is a ruling class in this country (Domhoff's **WHO RULES AMERICA?** is dated but a good starting point) — and can also confirm that it isn't Jewish. The left is as bad as the right for scapegoating in this fashion rather than facing the complexities of the situation.

Dave's an interesting guy, who talks of his stints in the nuthouse with good humor, and has some original ideas and insights that cut through some of the intellectual nonsense surrounding our conceptions of the world. But don't get this unless you're willing to just ignore his anti-Semitism. (S-13)

★★★★★

Ira A. Robbins (ed.), **THE NEW TROUSER PRESS RECORD GUIDE, REVISED EDITION** (MacMillan, list price $16.95, ISBN 0-02-036370-2): A mammoth tome on new music, featuring 1900 bands and performers and 6200 recordings, from ABC to Tapper Zukie. In between they cover such relatively big names as the Cars and David Bowie, critical darlings like Einsturzende Neubauten and Residents, and most of the big names in punk and new wave today. For each artist, a complete discography is given, and then each disk reviewed in historical context — and praised or slammed as necessary.

That's the good news. The bad news is that there are deep flaws here. For starters, the coverage is decidedly spotty. On a sample of LPs that FF has reviewed, this book mentions about 35%; a sample of tapes batted only about 20%. (As far as I know, *nobody* is doing a good job of covering underground cassette culture these days). Omissions include Amor Fati, Boiled in Lead, Alien Planetscapes, and Michael Chocholak. Robbins says his criterion for inclusion was "bands and artists that favor experimentation, innovation, and self-expression —

CALL TO REASON — An Introduction to Atheism by Mary De Young — $7.50 to Mary De Young, P.O. Box 7252, Spencer, Iowa 51301-7252.

those who embrace music as something beyond its potential financial or ego-massaging awards". How this standard could let Blondie through and keep Black Girls out I don't know — except, of course, that the smaller indie labels are more likely to be ignored in any compilation, if only because their distribution is spotty. The discographies too are incomplete; I found significant omissions in those for Willie Alexander, GG Allin, and Eugene Chadbourne before I stopped checking.

Worse yet, the reader isn't given any way to find the darned records! Oh, sure, the labels are listed for each one, and it's carefully noted which releases are on tape or CD. But how's the average reader — especially one who picks this up in Waldenbooks — going to find Subterranean, New Alliance, or even Homestead? The sketchy bibliography in the back is a place to start, with three publications listed: **FLIPSIDE**, **OPTION**, and **THE BIG TAKEOVER** — what possessed them to ignore **MAXIMUM ROCKNROLL** and **SOUND CHOICE**? The lack of an index also hurts this volume.

On the other hand, there is one obvious market who can make good use of this work: fanzine editors. Now, when faced with the latest release from Ruts D.C. I can casually mention the themes of self-doubt and angst on their "Animal Now" album and sound like I know what I'm talking about. And to be fair, this will open up new music vistas to those determined enough to track them down — those of us who read the fanzines already know about most of this stuff. At about 650 pages, this is a useful reference book — but not the exhaustive and monumental one that the MacMillan publicists would have us believe. (672 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Jerome Rubin (ed.), **NEW YORK NATURALLY 1989** ($4.95 from City Spirit Publications, 590 Pacific St., Brooklyn, NY 11217): This one bills itself as "A Resource Directory for Natural Living in the TRI-STATE AREA", by which they mean New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. What this really means is the Greater New York City area; coverage of South Jersey is sketchy to nonexistent, as is that of western New York and northeast Connecticut. But for those in and around the City (as far out as, say, New Paltz) this looks like a useful resource.

The basic format is that of a rather New Age-ish directory, with listings and advertisements from hundreds of small businesses. Sections include Food (co-ops, natural food stores, restaurants), bodywork, education, tools for well-being, "Intuitive Arts & Sciences", and much else along those lines. But there's more here also: articles on recycling, cooking whole foods, detox therapy for your pet and the Greenhouse Effect are offered as well, with references and leads for further study. There's also a planning calendar and a selection of coupons, plus a useful glossary and bibliography of natural healing methods. (168 pp. tpb)

★★★★★

Arne Saknussemm, **INTERNATIONAL PATRIARCHY HANDBOOK** and **GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL BROTHELS** ($2 CASH & large SASE for more information & price list from The Patriarchal Network, 537 Jones St. #9295, San Francisco, CA 94102): A pair of books which promise to open the doorway for men to membership in "The International Patriarchy".

The **HANDBOOK** is the basic introduction to Saknussemm's gynophobic, homophobic and disorganized ideas. He sees human history as a war between the Patriarchy (good) and the Goddess-worshipping feminists (bad), with the latter currently in ascendancy. This, naturally, accounts for all of society's troubles. Fortunately, according to him, the cure is relatively simple. It boils down to accepting Saknussemm as a prophet and instituting things like contract mistresses, initiation ceremonies for adolescent males, mandatory numerological training, and legalized brothels, as well as a variety of jail terms for things like "homosexual loitering" (20 years). All this is given in the form of oracular pronouncements, with only a bare sketch of historical fantasy and no ethical theory at all as underpinnings. (S-19)

The **GUIDE** reiterates this same information in a more organized fashion, with further rants and raves on such subjects as the connection between feminism and Marxism and the origins of homosexuals. (Women are to blame, of course). The brothels part lists five cities which have legal prostitution, though the reviewer is cautioned "DO NOT MENTION TOWNS, CITIES, COUNTRIES OR CONTINENTS IN YOUR BOOK REVIEW." I will say that these places are not excessively accessible to the usual run of American males, so don't buy this hoping to find a spot to get laid soon. (D-30t)

Overall, this is a sad pair of books from someone who has found a deepseated hatred of women and mistaken it for The Truth.

★★★★★

Sappho, **BOP** ($6 cash/MO from Cary Roberts, c/o Zendik Farm, 1431 Tierra Del Sol Rd., Boulevard, CA 92005): To "bop" is, in the somewhat idiosyncratic shorthand of Indian/Gypsy/Jew Salvitore Blackhawk, to kill someone for a righteous cause. In Blackhawk's case, this case is that of the Earth itself; he styles himself an "Ecol-Warrior" and takes the responsibility of disposing of people who do not show the proper respect for nature. (Though, in an orgy of self-contradiction, he drives a variety of hopped-up gasoline-burning vehicles with no apparent remorse).

This is a tough book to review, as I keep wanting to address the propaganda aspects rather than the artistic ones. But let's start with the latter — set in southern California in 1967, this is a great read. One measure is that even though the book is written in Blackhawk's journal shorthand almost throughout, it kept pulling me along, and after a while I didn't even feel anything wrong with this compressed hipness:

"...an you can see thru easy the dum deal these modern mystic guru imports r try'n t spiel bout its all peace an we'r all perfect, cause really this life an this world aint nothin but like a troublesome dream or a blink in krishna's eye an the *real* thing an the real place comes on maybe after ya croak an f now all ya supposed t do is get skinny an meditate an that.. bullshit! hind their stuck-on fake-saint smiles, them punks r just fukin fraid t look at evil an deal with it, they cant see the good either..."

The lingo actually works real well to get the feel of the times and the milieu — beautiful hip people, since Blackhawk is a well-known avant-garde sculptor with lots of friends — across, and treated as sort of crazy phonics it fits right in. As to the plot, there's plenty of action and even more sex, hot and heavy at times and slow and gentle at others; though this is not meant to be one-handed literature it tries to keep an open and healthy attitude. The characters build believably if a bit archetypically, and by the end you really care what's going to happen to them — though you'll never guess the end, and may have to read it a few times to see all the implications.

It's on the level of propaganda that I have grave problems with this book, and they center around one simple notion: that there are people who are simply bad, and that the ethical human is required to take them out. It's pretty clear that I end up as what the book's author calls a "free-choice-liberal", condemned as part of the problem for wanting to look for nonviolent win-win solutions. Oh sure, there's some raps here about how even the people who get offed in the name of the earth are the better for it, but I'm not convinced. On the other hand, I can respect the groping for a new way of life that's going on here, especially the vision of a new and free tribalism. It's just that I don't like the apocalyptic morals involved. But that hardly detracts from the book as a book; I don't condemn spy thrillers simply because spies are generally smarmy people. (S-181)

★★★★★

Ted Schultz (ed.), **THE FRINGES OF REASON** (Harmony Books, ISBN 0-517-57165-X; $14.95): This one is another product of those hyperkinetic folks behind the Whole Earth Catalog. Indeed, it is subtitled "A Whole Earth Catalog", and uses the same large format and general graphic layout, as well as providing the same mass of references. But, as with **SIGNAL** (see FF29), this is a catalog of a certain sector of the world: strange ideas held by either cranks or courageous researchers, depending on your point of view.

Schultz and his crew have cast a fairly wide net, covering channeling, UFOs, Shamanism, dowsing, perpetual motion, the Hollow Earth, psychic powers, bigfoot (well, only in passing) and all manner of New Age and Old Occult nonsense (and perhaps sense as well). Major articles look into general ideas, with the usual little boxes of specific reviews.

There's a lot here, from Charles Tart on parapsychology to Robert Schadewald on Flat Earthers and later perpetual motion, to Robert Anton Wilson on the slipperiness of truth, to Joshua Hammer on the new brain machines to Jay Kinney on the unrevealed history of the Church of the SubGenius (but take this revelation with a grain of 'frop!). These researchers know what they're doing, and provide good overviews and an appropriate mix of skepticism and willingness to believe we don't know everything. There were very few instances where I thought they were barking up the wrong tree. Some specific pieces alone are worth the price of the book, like the forum on the Hundredth Monkey or John Keel on recurrent weird science/conspiracy rumors. Debunking the most obvious claptrap may just help focus on things that have some relation to the world.

If you're into weird science, nutty cults, UFOs, or just interested in seeing the limits of our worldview, this one belongs on your shelf next to **HIGH WEIRDNESS BY MAIL** and, of course, **FACTSHEET FIVE**. (224 pp. tpb.)

★★★★★

Jared Scarborough, **A 'HOME' PARTY PLATFORM: A NEW AMERICAN POLITICS FOR THE 1990's AND BEYOND** ($16.95 from RR 1, Box 160, Payson, IL 62360): I like the idea behind this book better than those contained in the book itself: it bills itself as "one of what the author hopes will be many attempts, by other authors, at describing a positive future for ourselves as we near the year 2000." Scarborough approaches this task by trying to outline a new domestic (and to a lesser extent international) politics, combining elements of "pure conservatism", "pure radicalism", and "pure liberalism" to arrive at a synthesis marked (or so he claims) by "common sense". I don't think he succeeds in this — certainly several of his particulars appear nonsensical to me, as does the very idea of depending on top-down political solutions — but the ideas are interesting nonetheless.

Scarborough certainly injects some new ideas into the debate. Restructuring Congress so as to give the Senate tenure and make the House vote according to public opinion is new to me (although I suspect the implementation of the latter would be impossibly unwieldy, even with the system of computerized phone polls he describes). To take another example, reclaiming the natural environment on this country through a series of hostels supplied by airships and staffed by dedicated youth is a new approach to both conservation and development, although once again I have specific objections to the happy technological future.

Other topics tackled here include eliminating unemployment by adjusting things so that small farms resurge, easing international tensions through win-win global compromises, and promoting education from a

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perspective of student control. If enough people — ten thousand, to be precise — respond favorably, the author promises to actually form a Home Party to promote his ideas. While I doubt this will happen, I do expect to see some of them picked up and modified in future debates. (154pp. hc)

*****

Martin Sprouse (compiler), **THREAT BY EXAMPLE** ($7 from Pressure Drop Press, PO Box 460754, San Francisco, CA 94146): I see this book as in some ways complementary to **BANNED IN DC** the photographic history of Washington punk I reviewed last issue. Martin has put together a book which can be viewed as (though it's only one view) an intellectual history of punk — defined as a broad social movement rather than a type of music.

The basic structure of the book is simple. Martin asked a bunch of people who he found inspirational to write about their lives and why and how they did the things they did. Some of them wrote, some supplied photos or artwork instead. The essays range from personal history to political philosophy. Amazingly enough, it all forms a coherent whole, and it's a very nice whole indeed. Basically, the 27 people here are idealists (even though a few are cynics as well) — they believe in people and in a better world, and in one way or another they're contributing to getting us there.

Of the folks in this book, I've had dealings with about half, and the subculture being the small pond that it is, I expect to run across the other half eventually. Oddly enough, most of them seem to be several years younger or quite a bit older than me (I'm turning 30 this year) — either there aren't many folks from my generation here, or those of us who grew up during the 70's have learned not to admit it. But I digress.

What else to say? It's a good book. I've got space, so here's the list of contributors: Mark Baez, Chris Bald, Jeff Bale, Mykel Board, Chumbawamba, Cynthia Connolly, The Ex, Al Flipside, Victor Hayden, Tom Jennings, Lawrence Livermore, Dick Lucas, Ian MacKaye, Jack Perkins, Peter Plate, Deborah Rieschl, Ruth Schwartz, Paul Spence, Tomas Squip, Tommy Strange, Jason Traeger, Johan van Leeuwen, Winni Wintermeyer, Chris X-BCT, John Yates, Tim Yohannon, and Susanne Yago. It's an illustrious crowd (though Martin makes it clear he doesn't consider them to be the "best" people in the scene or anything — just people who helped him write a book) and if any of these folks intrigue you, you should get this. (131 pp. tpb)

*****

Irving Stettner, **THUMBING DOWN TO THE RIVIERA** ($11.95 & 80¢ postage from Writers Unlimited, Inc., Box 280, Rte. 2, Harveys Lake, PA 18618): Pure, simple and direct storytelling that flows so well as to make one quite lose track of the time. That's OK even for the busiest of folk, for Stettner's prose is so lucid as to make it possible to whiz through this book in an evening — though I suspect I'll be coming back to it to savor the text again, sooner or later.

The first of three pieces here is the title essay, about hitchhiking around France many a year ago. Stettner weaves a crazy path from Paris down to the Riviera, meeting people along the way, supporting himself by luck and pluck, and generally having a contagiously good time.

This is followed by the longest piece here, "Shirley, I Love You! *A Brooklyn Memorabilia*", which chronicles growing up in the Brooklyn of the 1920s and 30s. Stettner's memory is good, and he doesn't paint over the warts — though even the street fights and hard work in the furniture factory take on a somewhat magical character when he tells of them.

Finally there's "Henrysan and the *Stroker*", a reminiscence of Stettner's acquaintance with Henry Miller — who, during the last years of his life, wrote only for Stettner's zine **STROKER**, despite opportunities galore to do otherwise. It's a tender and touching tribute to a great (and still controversial) writer. The whole is capped with a selection of the author's watercolors (reproduced in full color), which are as exuberant as his prose.

You all know I'm not a real fan of the literary small press. But this book is a different species of fish entirely — spontaneous and joyful, and worth reading just to glimpse a bit of life as I haven't known it. (132 pp. tpb)

*****

Michael J. Stotts, **MICHAEL J. STOTTS VS. THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA...** ($2 from 5 Star Press, PO Box 4167, Halfmoon, NY 12065): Michael Stotts is currently serving 75 years in the Federal prison system for being part of an extortion plot aimed at the jury that convicted him of escaping from another prison sentence. He claims that this is nonsense, and that the prosecution was based on his human and prison rights activism. This booklet tells his side of the story.

On Stotts' side, it does appear rather incredible that he would have been a part of the extortion plot when his prison sentence was almost over. On the other hand, several cellmates and prison acquaintances of his did testify that he bragged of masterminding the whole thing. So it really boils down to who you believe — and the courts elected to believe the prosecution. (Stotts also claims that there is evidence supporting his case that was not allowed to be admitted — but we have nothing beyond his own word about this).

If I sound cautious about this case, it's because I am. There's no documentation here (though case numbers are given for those who know how to use them to locate the records), just one man's point of view of his own circumstances. And reading the reporting of the direct appeal of the case, it's obvious that he's chosen to leave out a few incidents from his record. And the liberal community has been burned before by supporting prisoners without really knowing the facts. But, even with all this said and done, Stotts' story is worth looking into. He just may be telling the truth, and if so, this stands as an incredible bit of persecution by "our" government. (S-23)

*****

Joseph A. Uphoff, Jr., **PYTHAGOREAN RELATIONS** and John Kenna & Joseph Uphoff, **CRITICAL SURREAL CORRESPONDENCE** (Arjuna Library Press, 1025 Garner St. #18, Colorado Springs, CO 80905): FF will continue to note the publications of Arjuna Library for completeness sake, even though it's been the unanimous opinion of our reviewers that they're very close to meaningless. **PYTHAGOREAN RELATIONS** is twenty more pages of mathematical symbols by Uphoff, a fine arts major who apparently thinks he's making mathematical breakthroughs by recombining symbols without argument or definition. Decorative as calligraphy, but otherwise mostly tedious. **CRITICAL SURREAL CORRESPONDENCE** is a bit better, since the letter format keeps him from going too far off into boring nonsense. Kenna and Uphoff discuss how to find out about modern surrealists in France and otherwise try to make progress on a theory of art. (D-32)

*****

USSR NEWS BRIEF, LIST OF POLITICAL PRISONERS IN THE USSR (DM38 from Das Land und die Welt e.V., Schwanthalerstrasse 73, 8000 Munchen 2, WEST GERMANY): This is a list, as complete as it could be made, of all political prisoners in the USSR as of October 30, 1988 (October 30 is the Day of the Political Prisoner, when those imprisoned fast, strike, or otherwise protest).

The good news is that this year's edition has less than half as many people listed as last year's, thanks to a series of releases and amnesties. The bad news is that still leaves 217 prisoners listed, some of whom were arrested this year (religious objection to military service appears to be the main grounds for this). Along with basic information on the prisoners, there is some overview of the Soviet system, including notes on the criminal code, pictures and maps of prisons, and a table showing the conditions of imprisonment.

A valuable reference for human rights activists and a good adjunct to the fortnightly **USSR NEWS BRIEF.** (D-103t)

*****

Jeff Vandermeer, **THE BOOK OF FROG** ($5.95 from 7701 SW 7th Pl., Gainesville, FL 32607): Ten short stories and a work in progress centered on frogs (well, toads in one or two of them, but that's close enough). Some of these are the stereotypical tales of terror, people chased by or buried under thousands of amphibians, but Vandermeer's range is much wider than that. I especially liked "The Color of Chance is Green", a finely-honed tale of revenge and betrayal set in a smoky New Orleans bar. "A Cracked Ferry Tale", replete with nonsense and silliness, rings a new change on the old story of the princess and the frog. Light-hearted and fun for the most part, and cleverly written throughout. (D-46t)

*****

Harry Willson, **A WORLD FOR THE MEEK** ($8 from Amador Publishers, PO Box 12335, Albuquerque, NM 87195): "A fantasy novel" — and also, I would add, an original and fascinating book. It traces the adventures of Noah Bower, Last Man On Earth. For the first few chapters it has some of the flavor of the classic **EARTH ABIDES**, with the sole survivor of a dreadful war (the ultimate weapon, a destroyer of protoplasm, was unleashed while he was in an underground trance) wandering through the remains of civilization, and trying to raise an infant child to carry on.

This project fails, in a heartrending way, and Noah goes a little bit crazy. He develops his esoteric powers still further and spends years, centuries, millenia in a trance, watching the days flick by like the blinking of an eye while walls crumble and the sand buries the cities. Eventually he ends up in the Gulf of California, where he meets the inheritors of the earth: octopi and dolphins, improbably combined. The ending of the book is surprising and uplifting at once.

I liked this book on first reading, and I still like it. It's not confined by the strictures of science fiction, but it doesn't fly loose in utter fantasy either. Perhaps the best way to think of it is as an exercise in modern mythology, creating something grounded in our world and yet speaking to our problems on a more symbolic level. Or perhaps it's just a good tale, written in a straightforward, flowing style, about the art of living. Either way, it's worth a try. (184 pp. tpb)

*****

George Zeller, **THE 1989 PIRATE RADIO DIRECTORY** ($7 from Tiare Publications, PO Box 493, Lake Geneva, WI 53147): A concise and well-written handbook of (mainly U.S.) pirate radio stations. Pirates, of course, are those broadcasters who put out music or other radio shows without the formality of getting an FCC license. They tend to get busted if they're too blatant, but by changing frequencies and schedules and broadcasting in the dead of night, some of these folks have beaten the game for years.

Zeller gives a good introduction to the world of pirate radio, explaining when and how to listen, what equipment is worth using, and what to expect. He also explains the basics of getting QSL cards from the pirates, and discusses other sources of information on them.

The majority of the book, though, is devoted to an alphabetical listing of US pirate stations monitored in 1988. The list is extensive and well-annotated, discussing programming format (from far right-wing to SubGenius to women's music to politics to just plain ranting), quality, hours, and (when known) mail-drop addresses. With this book as a guide and some radio equipment, anyone should be able to get involved in a potentially quite fascinating hobby. (56pp. pb)

*****

BOOK NOTES:

●● **Distribution** (396 7th St. #2, Jersey City, NJ 07302) has a new catalog of anarchist and situationist books and pamphlets out, chock-full of hard-to-find things of interest to the radical fringe. For a copy, send a 50¢ SASE.

●**All Source Systems** (PO Box 696, Morton, WA 98356) offers a curious selection of books ranging from esoteric Bible translations to weapon manuals to burglary secrets to the Protocol of the Elders of Zion. Looks like an SASE should net you their 8-page catalog.

●**Books Are Everything** (302 Martin Dr., Richmond, KY 40475) sent their Auction Lists #47 and #48, each with hundreds of classic paperbacks from Ace Doubles to Venus sleaze novels. $5 will get you on their mailing list, where you stay as long as you keep bidding. Classic stuff I wish I had to put on my bookshelves.

●**BUTSOMON** is the newsletter & catalog of the Buddhist Bookstore (1710 Octavia St., San Francisco, CA 94109). I imagine they'd send you a copy, full of books for sale as well as reviews and short articles, for a buck or so.

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•**Nicholas Certo** (PO Box 322, Circleville, NY 10919) sells a variety of SF, fantasy, horror, mystery and related titles by mail. A buck or so should get you on the list for his next catalog.

•**A COMMON READER** (175 Tompkins Ave., Pleasantville, NY 10570) bills their catalog as being "A selection of books for readers with imaginations." They run to relatively highbrow stuff, from PDQ Bach to mythology to Jane Austen to Marcel Proust to JG Ballard.

•Yael Dragwyla sent along selections from **BOOK II**, her grimoire-in-progress of basic magick. This is a technical work being compiled now and not yet finished, but if you're anxious to see the manuscript to date — including invocations, ritual outlines, pentagrams, hexagrams and more — you can send her $10 at PO Box 45792, Seattle, WA 98145-0792.

•Got the 29th through 31st catalogs from **Chris Drumm** (PO Box 445, Polk City, IA 50226), who stocks an awful lot of used SF, as well as his own booklets (by folks like Lafferty and Sladek). A buck should get you on his list for a sample or two. With #31 Chris has started discounting new paperbacks across the board.

•**Flashback Books** (348 Bodega Ave., Petaluma, CA 94952) specializes in books about drugs, underground newspapers, the sixties, and related topics. Lots of impossible to find items in this one — I wish I could afford to buy some. It's a fat 58-page catalog with extensive descriptions, so send a couple bucks if you're interested.

•**ICHTHYS BOOKS** (916 Red Mountain Dr., Glenwood Springs, CO 81601) are a publisher of "Pro-American and Christian Books" that tend to be on the rather far right.

•The 1988 Book Catalogue from the **Institute for Christian Economics** came out in January, with lots of books about how the Bible is relevant to social institutions. Try a buck's donation for a copy of the catalogue. It also includes a succint discussion of their purpose and philosophy.

•**Krause Publications** (700 E. State St., Iola, WI 54990) has three new books out for collectors. Colin Bruce's **UNUSUAL WORLD COINS** ($19.45) reports on non-negotiable coins issued by various utopians and cranks, while **THE 1989 BASEBALL CARD PRICE GUIDE** ($13.95) now gives more than 225,000 values. Also available is the 5th revised edition of **A GUIDE BOOK OF MEXICAN COINS, 1822 TO DATE** ($17.45).

•**Laissez Faire Books** (532 Broadway, 7th Fl., New York, NY 10012-3956) call themselves "The World's Largest Selection of Books on Liberty" — i.e., they sell Libertarian stuff. When I used to read this stuff I ordered it from them. You can probably get the latest catalog on request, since they're a pretty big operation.

•**LLEWELLYN'S NEW TIMES** masquerades as a magazine but it's almost entirely a plug for the New Age and occult books from Llewellyn Publications. They also run lots of ads from others in the same area of business. You can get a copy for $2 from PO Box 64383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383.

•**Loompanics International** (PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368) is out with their 1989 Spring catalog supplement. Along with titles like **BETTER BEER AND HOW TO BREW IT** and **MAKE MONEY BY MOONLIGHTING**, they feature an article on the benign uses for computer viruses. $1 should procure a copy.

•**McClintock Books** (PO Box 1949, Warren, OH 44482-1949) has its Catalogue #87 out, chock full of science fiction, horror, and other good stuff. Real good on stuff like Arkham House, collectibles, rarities, Philip Jose Farmer mss., and other things I would love to own. Send 25¢ for the next catalog.

•**Jeffrey Meyerson** has his Mystery Sales List #78 out — 730 books, including many out of print, for sale at reasonable prices. Send $1 to get on his mailing list.

•**Popular Reality** (PO Box 11551, Eugene, OR 97440) has put out its second book catalog, featuring a number of works by folks like Jack Saunders and John Crawford that have been reviewed in these pages and are darned hard to get. Try an SASE for a copy. *[Late news: publisher David Crowbar has reportedly been forced to move suddenly, and I'm not sure whether his mail is being forwarded or not.]*

•The 1989 Loompanics Main catalog is out, with hundreds of books on things like making silencers, life extension, avoiding taxes, becoming a bodyguard, blowing things up, good sex, bad drugs, and even fanzine publishing. The 218-page typeset catalog is good reading in itself, and features essays from Robert Anton Wilson, Richard E. Geis, Matt Crowley and Bradley Steiner. Probably $3 will get you a copy.

•**Dave McClintock** (PO Box 1949, Warren, OH 44482-1949) sends his catalogue 86, which you can get for 25¢. He's into SF, horror and related works, mostly collectibles but including some new works in the $5 price range. This goes up to around $2000 for original Phil Farmer manuscript collections.

•**New Society Publishers** (PO Box 582, Santa Cruz, CA 95061-0582) is a worker-controlled, non-profit publishing house committed to nonviolent social change. They have an especially good selection of green, bioregional and ecofeminist publications. A polite request should get you their next catalog.

•**The Patrice Press** (1701 S. Eighth St., St. Louis, MO 63104) publishes a number of nice-looking books about the trails of the old West, focusing most heavily on the Oregon, Donner and Santa Fe trails. Maps, guides, and trail diaries predominate.

•**Pyramid Books** (PO Box 4536, Salem, MA 01970) sent me another catalog of their New Age offerings. Besides books, they offer such things as a Quartz Crystal Temple Bowl for $185, or a Luminous Wizard Oil Lamp for only $55. The catalog itself is only $1.

•**Tom Ratkov** (36610 Farmbrooke #36, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043) has added some pages to his paranoid-schizoid **DIARY OF A PINBALL WIZARD** [see FF29], based in part on his correspondence with Kerry Thornley, and the whole 107 pages now goes for $10.

•**The Seal Press** (3131 Western Ave. #410, Seattle, WA 98121-1028) exists "to bring feminist writing by women to a wider audience." Catalog on request.

•**The Sexuality Library** (3385 22nd St., San Francisco, CA 94110) offer "carefully selected, sexual self-help books by mail" — everything from erotica to manuals to humor to massage with a full-credit-back guarantee. Looks like they'll send you a catalog just for the asking.

•**SMALL PRESS DISTRIBUTION** (1814 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, CA 94702) act as a distributor for many small literary presses, easing the ordering problems of libraries and booksellers. Try sending a buck for their latest list.

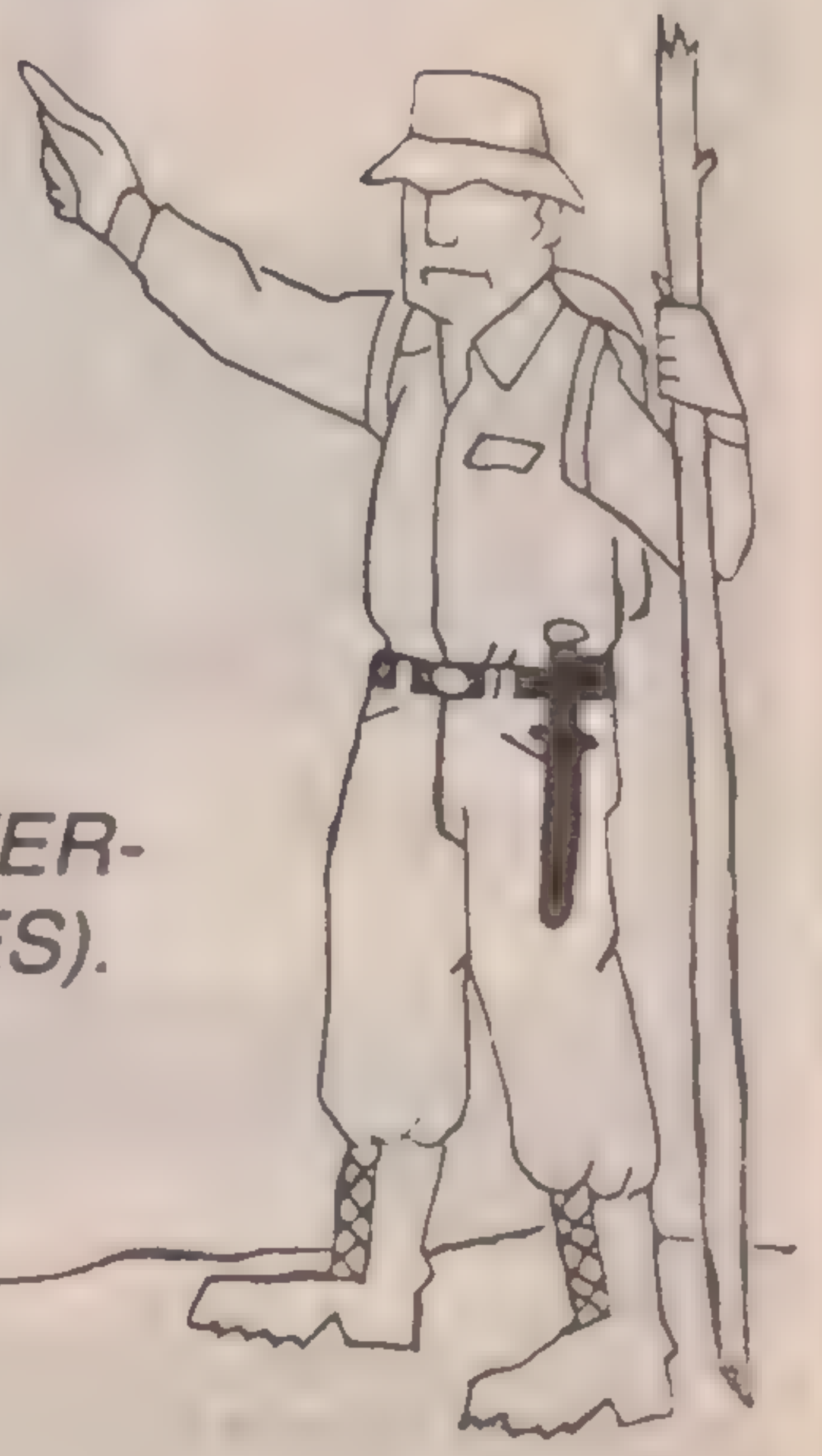
•**tentatively, a convenience** (PO Box 382 CR, Baltimore, MD 21203) reportedly has an autobiographical manuscript of art, mayhem, and "How to Write a Resume" searching for a home. Marginal publishers should definitely get in touch.

•**Touch** (13 Osward Road, London SW17 7SS, ENGLAND) will send you a catalog of their various experimental tapes, records, posters, booklets and other productions for 2 IRCs.

•**Travel Books Unlimited** (4931 Cordell Ave., Bethesda, MD 20814) stocks an incredible selection of guidebooks, maps, and foreign language books. You need look no further than this 86-page typeset catalog to prepare for your next exotic trip. Looks like about a $2 product.

•**Ziesing Newsletter** #77, 78 and 79 are out (Mark Ziesing, PO Box 806, Wuillimantic, CT 06226) and I know you're all sick of hearing me plug his books and service so just send him a buck for this catalog (with columns from Joey Shea and Andy Watson) of fine SF and other strange things and then buy lots of stuff so he can feed his family. I recommend the new **KRAZY KAT** anthology very highly. Mark supports & stocks the small press too so what are you waiting for?

MARK NEVILLE 89



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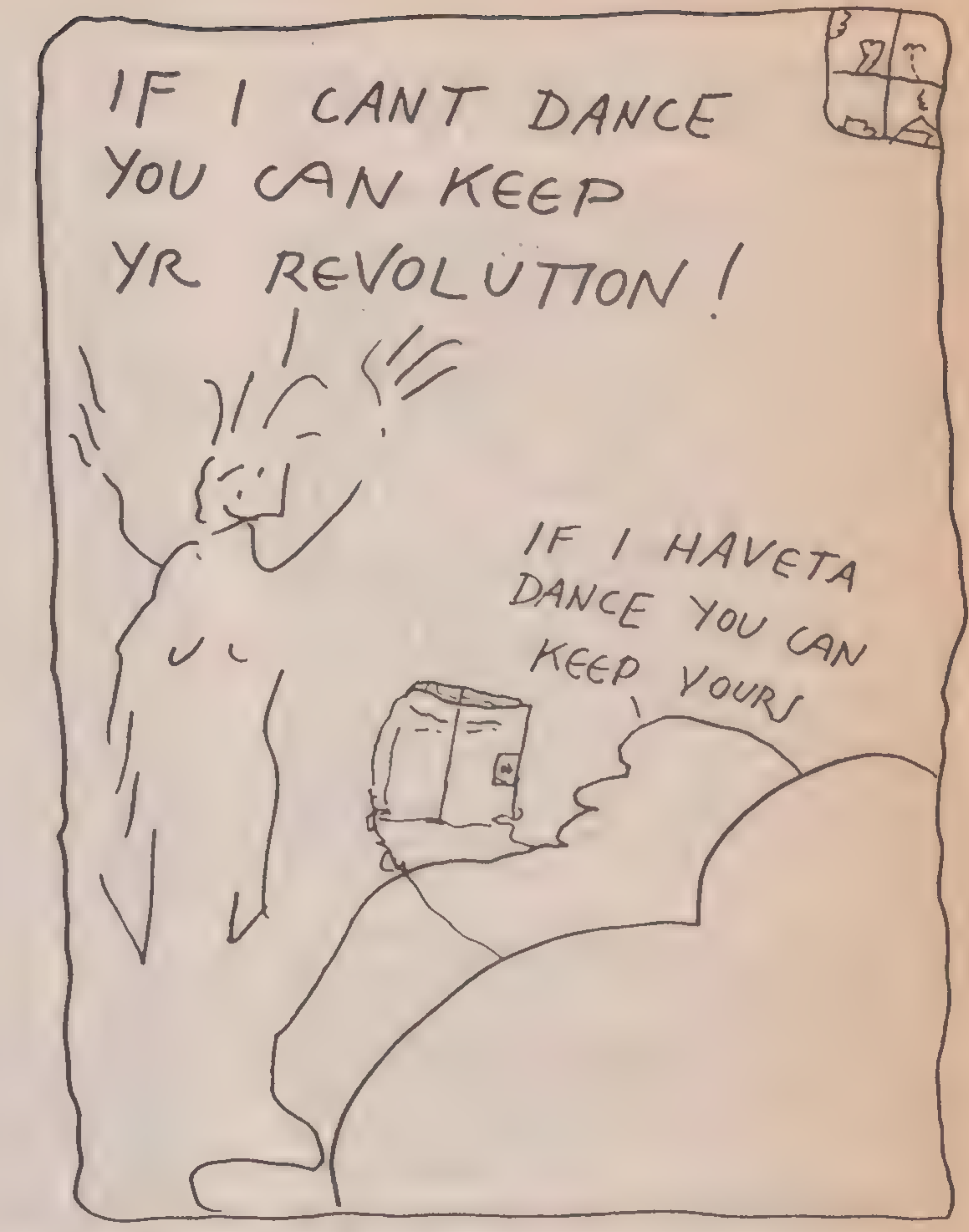
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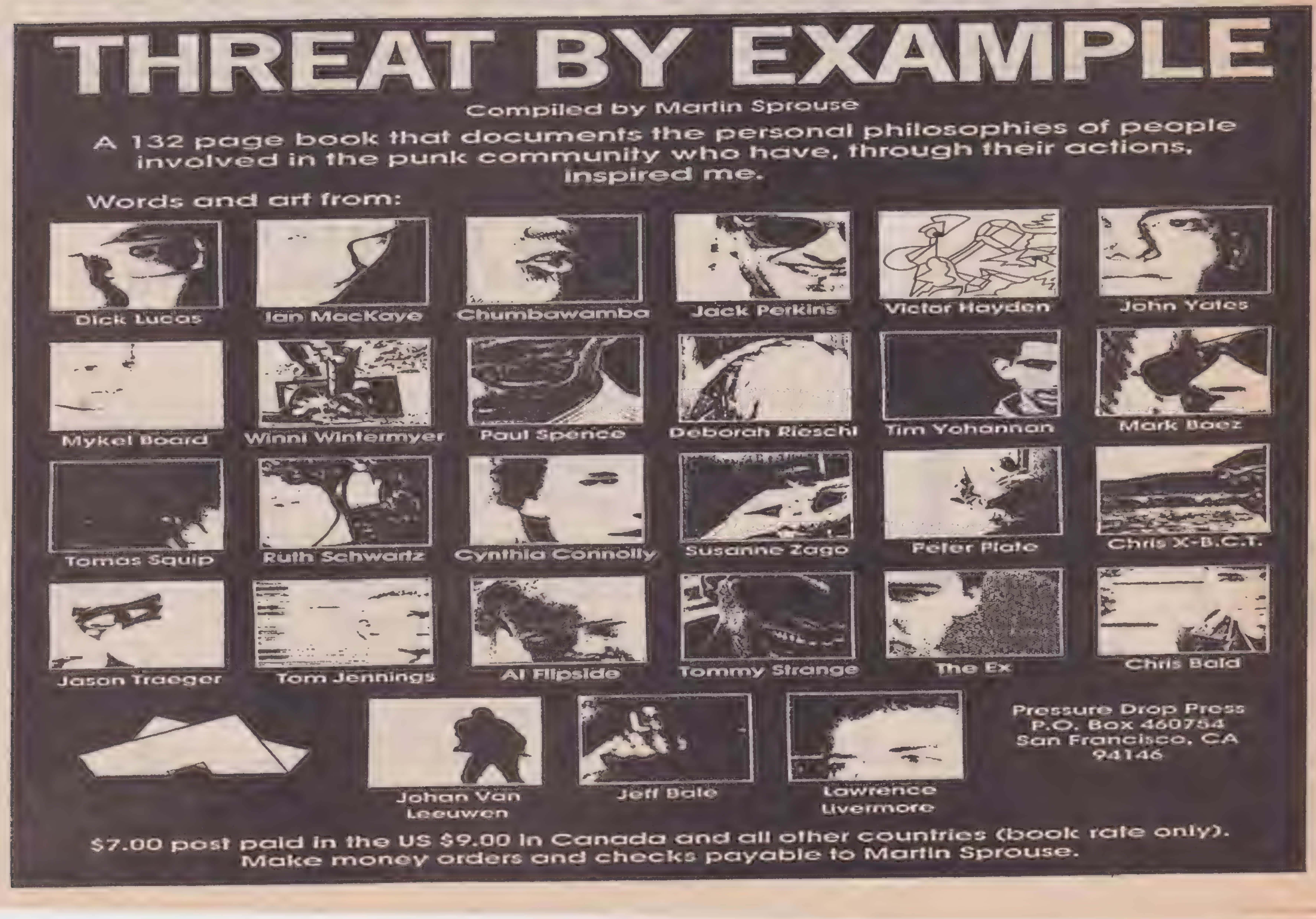
IF I HAVETA DANCE YOU CAN KEEP YOURS



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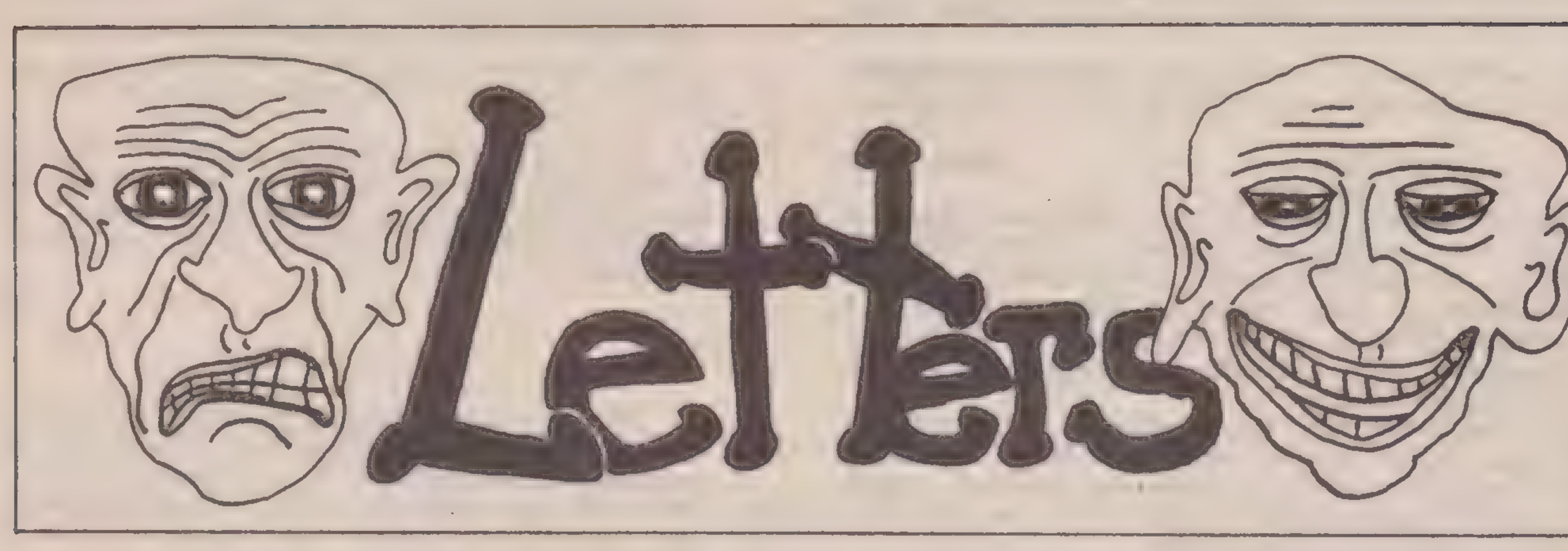

Madman of Poland Christopher Skiba, member of Gallery of Maniacal Activities, and soon to be Prince of Polish Monarchic Party, requests news of the "artistic underground" in the U.S. Please send him zines, collages, dirty sex letters, and other weapons. Chrisopher Skiba, ul. Lumumby, 18/20 II DS uL, 91-404 Lodz, POLAND.

Bob McGlynn

★★★★★

Right review, wrong book. There is indeed a book out there which cynically exhibits, and exploits, a "freak show" of fringe writers. It is called **HIGH WEIRDNESS BY MAIL** and Mike Gunderloy helped write it. **RANTS** is something else again. **HWBM** is Ivan Stang jerking off his SubGenius cronies and writing off, with wink-wink condescension, all the other unusuals. **RANTS** lets the irrepressible excitables of four centuries *speak for themselves* — and they've got *lots* to get off their chests. Stang is beating his when he isn't beating off his buddies.

Why does Gunderloy call "amoral" an anthology most of whose 56 contributors are vehement moralists? Why does he agree that ranting is personal and idiosyncratic, then fault the editors for failure to fabricate an "overall theory of ranting"? Why does he contend most of these texts would "perhaps be better forgotten" when at least *forty percent* of them espouse offbeat versions of anarchism, Gunderloy's own ideology? Why does he think the dozen-odd contemporary ranters should be forgotten when he has saluted nearly all of them in **FACTSHEET FIVE**, one of whom (Thornley) in fact has a column there?

Gunderloy explodes his own theory of our rationale — sensationalism — when he notes that the selection by me, "The Correct Line", is not (in his estimation) as sensational as, say, "Feminism as Fascism." Somehow, he guilt-associates us with people like Charles Manson we *didn't* include, whereas **HWBM** puts you in touch with scads of Nazis and other nasties.

Everyone will find something obnoxious in **RANTS**, as I do. But anyone who is at all alive to inspiration will *I guarantee* have several out-of-mind experiences with texts Gunderloy (of all people!) wants to shove down the memory hole. I've been reading **FACTSHEET FIVE** since it was one ditto'd sheet, but the one thing I never thought to see was the wish to see any ideas of any expression best forgotten. Not if I can help it! And I can!

Sink all Subs,
Bob Black

★★★★★

I don't know if anyone reading **FF** is interested in football — well Soccer as you call it, but there is a huge explosion of fanzines in Britain, general soccer fanzines and ones with allegiances to particular clubs, e.g. Manchester United, Liverpool as well as smaller even non-League clubs. If anyone is interested I have a few collected that I have sent over from England and I'm willing to send them to anyone who'd like to read them (free of charge).

Pat Naylor
Blast First Records
262 Mott St. #324
New York, NY 10012

★★★★★

In the Monkees heyday, Boyce & Hart wrote a bunch of their songs, including "Last Train to Clarksville" and "(I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone". They also had hits as a duo during this time, i.e. "I Wonder what she's Doing Tonight" and "Alice Long (You're Still My Favorite Girlfriend)", the latter being a personal fave of mine when I was in the 6th grade.

In the mid-70's, in lieu of a Monkees reunion (which at the time didn't seem too likely or necessary) Mickey Dolenz and Davy Jones teamed up with Boyce & Hart for an album & tour under the name of Dolenz, Jones, Boyce & Hart. I'm not sure whether Boyce & Hart had any involvement in the 1986 Monkees reunion. I'm sure Boyce & Hart live very comfortably nowadays.

Larry Boyd

★★★★★

Your review of magazines would be much more useful is you would include general headings in your reviews. POLITICAL, MUSIC, POETRY, etc. It would help to be able to go right to the subjected one is interested in. I am talking about very general headings because of course much of the fun of your publication is in the discoveries but some entire areas I just ain't interested in.

Ron Blumer

/* This suggestion keeps coming up — and every time I mention it in print I get another deluge of letters from people who prefer the jumble. (And it's not a complete jumble — poetry is always separated out, and this time around Anarchy, Gay & Lesbian, Media and a few other groups are separate). But I could try to sort things further if that's what current readers want. How about it folks? */

★★★★★

ON GOGOL BOULEVARD is not just a zine "linking peace activists from east and west". Ugh! The last thing I, one of **OGB**'s editors, wants to be known as is a "peace activist" (shades of mainstrea leftism, pacifism, Holly Nearism...). Although a bunch of our contents concern anti-conscription activity, for example, "peace" is just a part of what we're about. We carry news of workers, counterculture, green, anarchist, new left and other stuff — anything and everything alternative/marginal/autonomous. (And we're comical as hell too!)

Bob McGlynn

★★★★★

Some readers may misinterpret your description of **A FLAWLESS MAN** as a "gay small press comic." To most people, a gay publication is one published by and for gays. While I have nothing against gay publications (I read quite a few and submit material to a couple), **A FLAWLESS MAN** is *not* a gay publication. It is a publication for straights and gays that just happens to feature a couple of gay characters.

Barry Deutsch

★★★★★

I want to pass on word of what seems clearly a case of tampering with the mails by the US Postal Service, which if it is no longer a government agency is still a contractor for the US government, and thus presumably takes its orders from — who do you guess? The Justice Department?

I received my copy of the controversial (now I realize why so controversial) **SEMIOTEXT[E] USA** from Autonomedia yesterday in a plastic bag with a note stamped on it in red: "Damaged in handling, please accept our apologies. USPS, NY, NY 10199-9701." (The sender is in Brooklyn).

The package had been neatly torn diagonally across the front, from upper right to lower left, just undercutting the top edge of the label, The inserted pages taped in back (the "unprintable" pages Autonomedia's printer refused to touch — really pretty forgettable stuff, and hardly worth the attentions of the guardians of public indecency) had obviously been taken out, refolded, and put back in.

Some "damage": the fact that the book itself was unmarked and the rest of the manila envelope was in pretty good shape makes it highly unlikely that this was damaged in handling. Clearly it is illegal tampering with the mail. Message seems to be: even though we can't prosecute, keep this up and you can expect trouble.

I suppose a lot of readers by now are saying, "Uh huh, uh huh, join the club." Mail tampering is something a lot of us are experiencing, is that it? Then I say let's have a forum on it, let's invite publishers and readers to comment. How many times has this happened to you? Enough times to make an article about? Enough times to raise hell about? Let's find out just what's going on in USPS, NY, NY 10199-9701 — and other places where they open mail.

For now I won't use my name. Later on, yes. I think it's appropriate that the forces of repression not know where the resistance is coming from just yet. Call me

Robin Hood

★★★★★

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Bound Together's been doing a modest prisoners project for some time now. We've called it *Prisoners Literature Project* & have books (new) donated to us by some publishers that are available free — postpaid on request. Though we can't necessarily provide a specific title we can provide something often enough in the realm of what's requested — we have a fair number of gay, lesbian, feminist, surrealist & some anarchist titles. Prisoners who request books should advise us as to the restrictions imposed on mail in their lockup (i.e., restrictions on hardcover books, wirebound titles, number of books allowed, can it come only from the publisher, etc.) It's getting tougher to send stuff in now.

Tom for BT Books/PLP
1369 Haight St.
San Francisco, CA
94117

★★★★★

I have to disagree with your assessment of **THE GARGOYLE**. See, it was written in the pulp style of H.P. Lovecraft and Clark Ashton Smith — in imitation especially of Smith's "Zothique" sequence of SF/Fantasies which I and many others enjoy. Sure, it's not a perfect imitation, but I feel your trashing and bashing was uncalled for and totally incorrect. The results may "stink" in your own opinion, and I can't change that, nor will I try, but I feel the work deserves a fair shake which it did not receive. Your review was at the expense of the work, and an exploitation of that work. You do your readers a disservice when you do not mention — nor even understand — the context of the work you are reviewing. You should be more careful in the future.

The fact that the first story has already seen publication in Britain in the HPL magazine **DAGON** (to very good reviews, I might add) and the 2nd story will probably appear in the near future in an issue of **ELDRITCH TALES** indicates that these are *at least* good stories, worthy of publication, enjoyed by knowledgeable editors and readers of that type of material, and are quite representative of that particular style of story....

Gary Lovisi

/* There was more to this letter, reiterating my failure to understand the work and its context. For the record, then, let me say that I have read (and enjoyed) practically every word of fiction that Lovecraft ever published, and I've also read a good deal of Smith (and frankly, his writing stinks too). I remain convinced that this work is simply not good, even on those terms. And I refuse to be cowed by evidence of publication, as we all know that a good deal of crap gets published in the small press (some of it here, of course). However, I will farm Gary's *next* book out to someone else to review — if, that is, he still cares to send it to me. */

★★★★★

Person or persons unknown, if you have any information in regards to a white mail with red hair whom you saw pick up a firearm that was thrown at him by a crazy, stoned white female on 24 February 1984 on 77 St. please contact me at once. A large cash reward is offered for your assistance.

Raymond C. Manchester
PO Box 51
Comstock, NY 12821

★★★★★

I find the cartoon on page 25 of your issue #29 offensive. The NRA is composed of hunters and sportsmen. They are much more concerned in preserving the environment than the average citizen. The cartoon, equating the NRA with litterbugs, does a grave injustice to a fine group of environmentalists of whom I am a member. Therefore I am not renewing my subscription.

Vincent E. Kreutz, Jr.

/* Sheesh! Some people are so sensitive. If the NRA is so committed to preserving the environment, how come I end up picking up someone else's discarded shotgun shells every time I go hiking around here? */

★★★★★

Sorry to contradict you — not a lot of people know this anyway — but Weldon wasn't the originator of the term "psychotronic". He'd picked it up from a cheap movie called *The Psychotronic Man*. What's it mean? Don't ask me. I didn't see the film. Weldon did, but I don't think he knows what it means either.

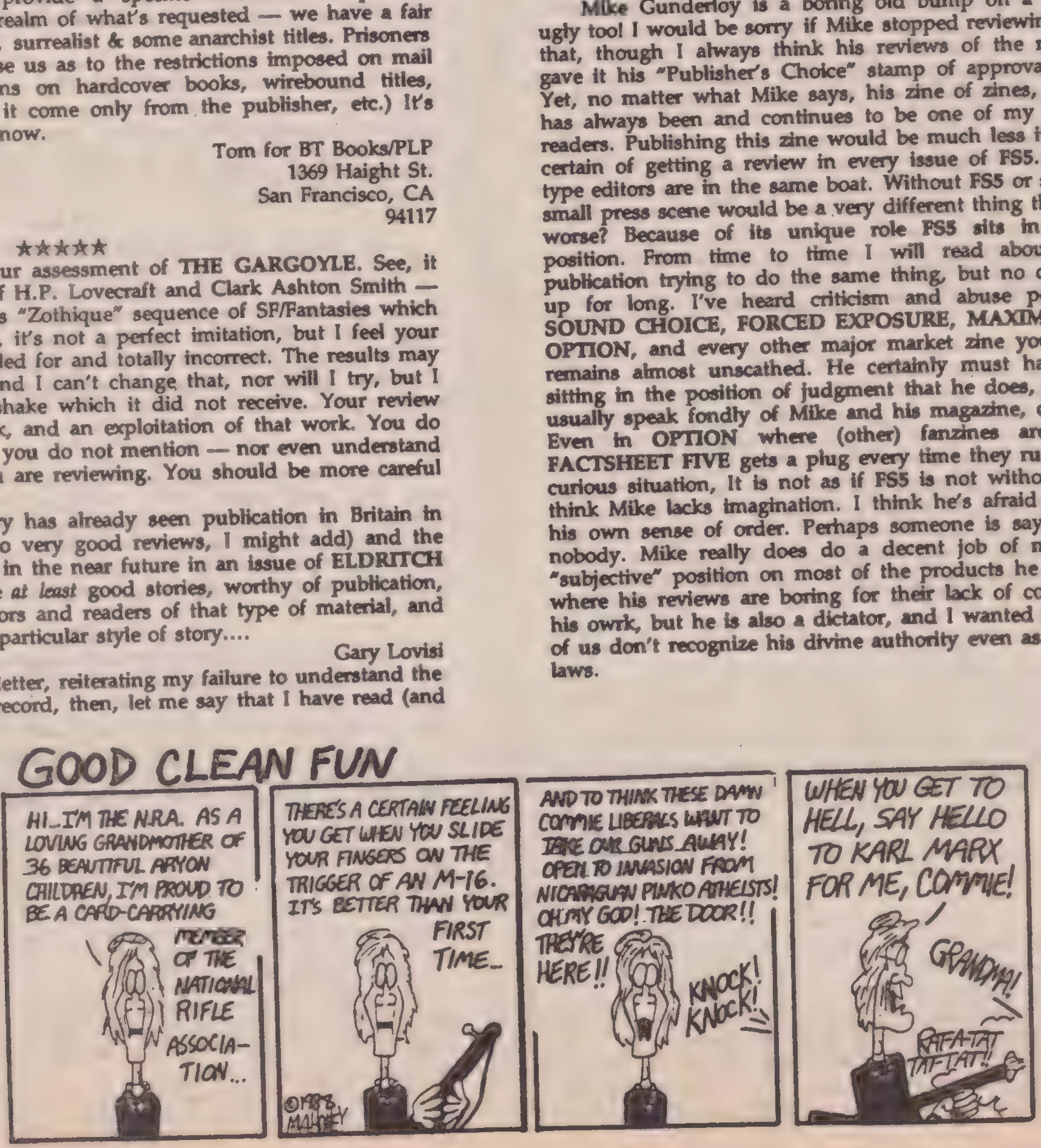
Dave Szurek

★★★★★

/* This last is not really a letter, but a review of **FACTSHEET FIVE** that was printed in **LOWLIFE** #15. I thought it deserved wider circulation. */

Mike Gunderloy is a boring old bump on a log and his magazine is ugly too! I would be sorry if Mike stopped reviewing LowLife because I said that, though I always think his reviews of the magazine (even when he gave it his "Publisher's Choice" stamp of approval) are way off the mark. Yet, no matter what Mike says, his zine of zines, **FACTSHEET FIVE (FS5)** has always been and continues to be one of my principle sources of new readers. Publishing this zine would be much less interesting if I couldn't be certain of getting a review in every issue of FS5. A lot of other little guy type editors are in the same boat. Without FS5 or something else like it, the small press scene would be a very different thing than it is. But would it be worse? Because of its unique role FS5 sits in a virtually untouchable position. From time to time I will read about (in FS5!) some other publication trying to do the same thing, but no one ever seems to keep it up for long. I've heard criticism and abuse poured on the editors of **SOUND CHOICE, FORCED EXPOSURE, MAXIMUM ROCK AND ROLL, OPTION**, and every other major market zine you can think of, but Mike remains almost unscathed. He certainly must have his share of enemies sitting in the position of judgment that he does, but the voices that count usually speak fondly of Mike and his magazine, or they don't speak at all. Even in **OPTION** where (other) fanzines are barely touched upon, **FACTSHEET FIVE** gets a plug every time they run the zine column. It is a curious situation, It is not as if FS5 is not without its faults. Personally, I think Mike lacks imagination. I think he's afraid of what tends to disrupt his own sense of order. Perhaps someone is saying, "who isn't?" Proably nobody. Mike really does do a decent job of maintaining a cool headed "subjective" position on most of the products he writes about to the point where his reviews are boring for their lack of conflict. He obviously loves his owrk, but he is also a dictator, and I wanted to make it clear that some of us don't recognize his divine authority even as we continue to live by its laws.

Glen Thrasher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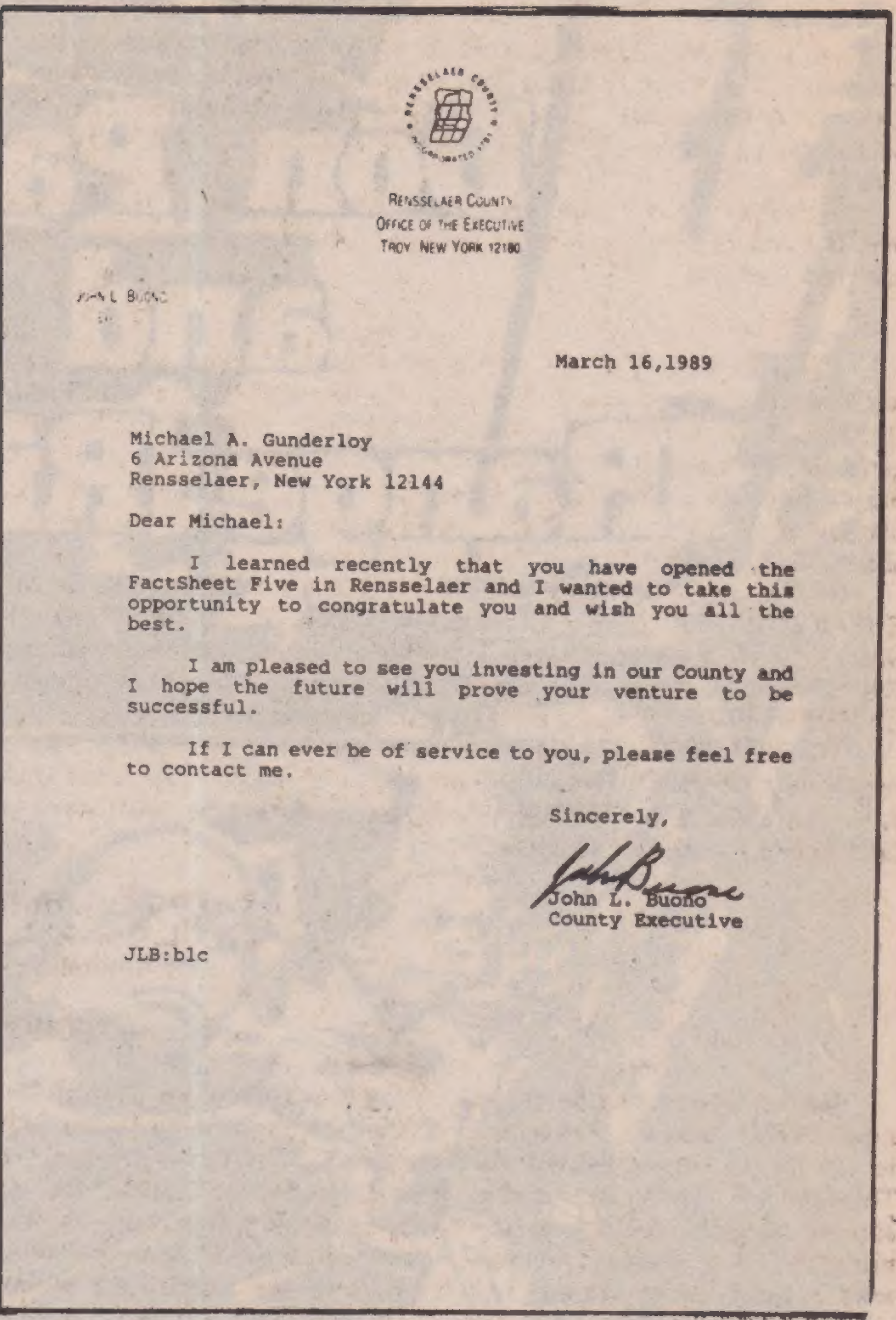
GRANDMA!
RAFA-TAT TAT-TAT!!



RENSSELAER COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
TROY NEW YORK 12180

JOHN L. BUONO

March 16,1989

Michael A. Gunderloy
6 Arizona Avenue
Rensselaer, New York 12144

Dear Michael:

I learned recently that you have opened the FactSheet Five in Rensselaer and I wanted to take this opportunity to congratulate you and wish you all the best.

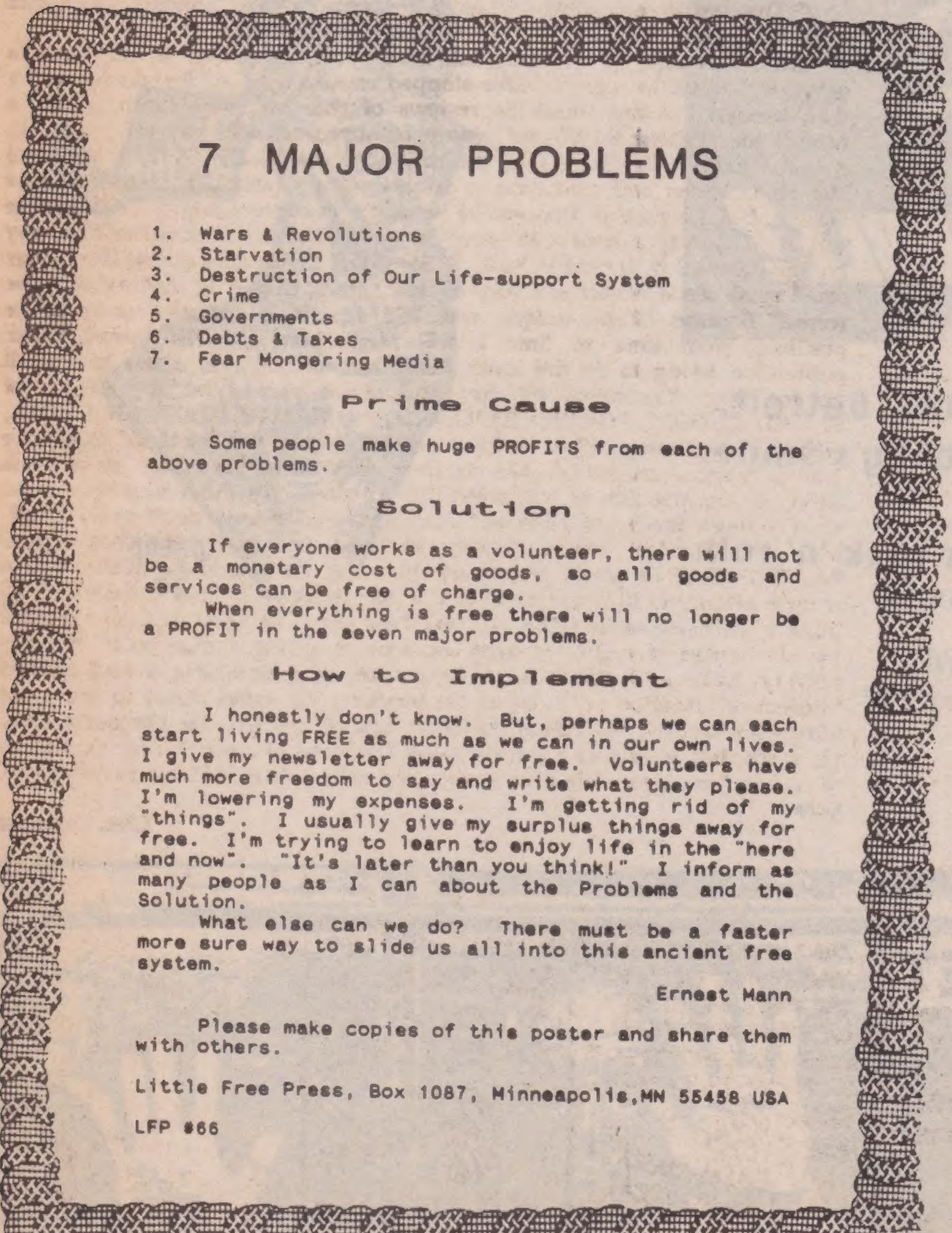
I am pleased to see you investing in our County and I hope the future will prove your venture to be successful.

If I can ever be of service to you, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

John L. Buono
John L. Buono
County Executive

JLB:blc



7 MAJOR PROBLEMS

1. Wars & Revolutions
2. Starvation
3. Destruction of Our Life-support System
4. Crime
5. Governments
6. Debts & Taxes
7. Fear Mongering Media

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When everything is free there will no longer be a PROFIT in the seven major problems.

How to Implement

I honestly don't know. But, perhaps we can each start living FREE as much as we can in our own lives. I give my newsletter away for free. Volunteers have much more freedom to say and write what they please. I'm lowering my expenses. I'm getting rid of my "things". I usually give my surplus things away for free. I'm trying to learn to enjoy life in the "here and now". "It's later than you think!" I inform as many people as I can about the Problems and the Solution.

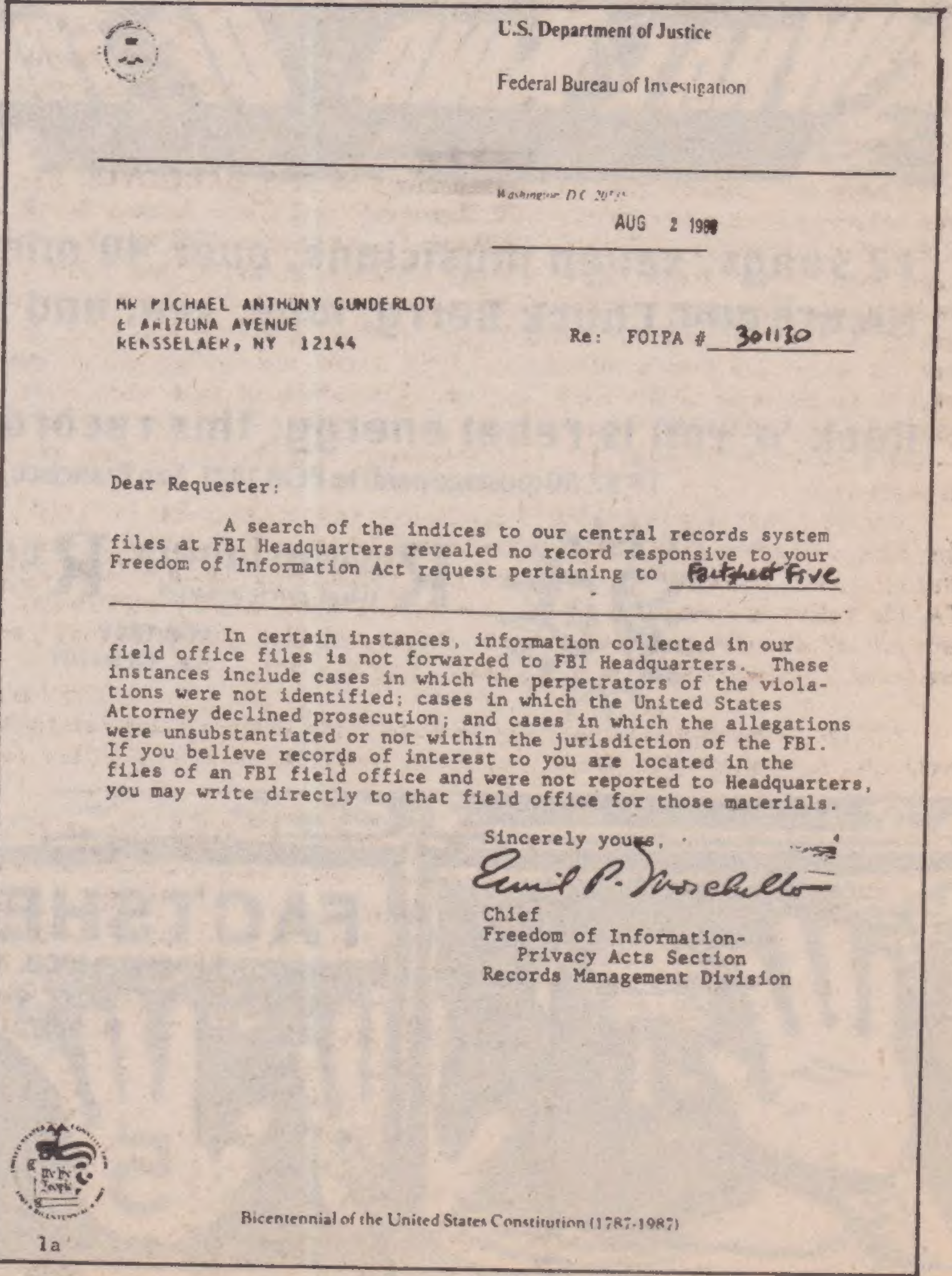
What else can we do? There must be a faster more sure way to slide us all into this ancient free system.

Ernest Mann

Please make copies of this poster and share them with others.

Little Free Press, Box 1087, Minneapolis,MN 55458 USA

LFP #66



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

AUG 2 198[illegible]

MR MICHAEL ANTHONY GUNDERLOY
6 ARIZONA AVENUE
RENSSELAER, NY 12144

Re: FOIPA # 301130

Dear Requester:

A search of the indices to our central records system files at FBI Headquarters revealed no record responsive to your Freedom of Information Act request pertaining to Factsheet Five

In certain instances, information collected in our field office files is not forwarded to FBI Headquarters. These instances include cases in which the perpetrators of the violations were not identified; cases in which the United States Attorney declined prosecution; and cases in which the allegations were unsubstantiated or not within the jurisdiction of the FBI. If you believe records of interest to you are located in the files of an FBI field office and were not reported to Headquarters, you may write directly to that field office for those materials.

Sincerely yours,

Emil P. Moschella
Chief
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Records Management Division

Bicentennial of the United States Constitution (1787-1987)

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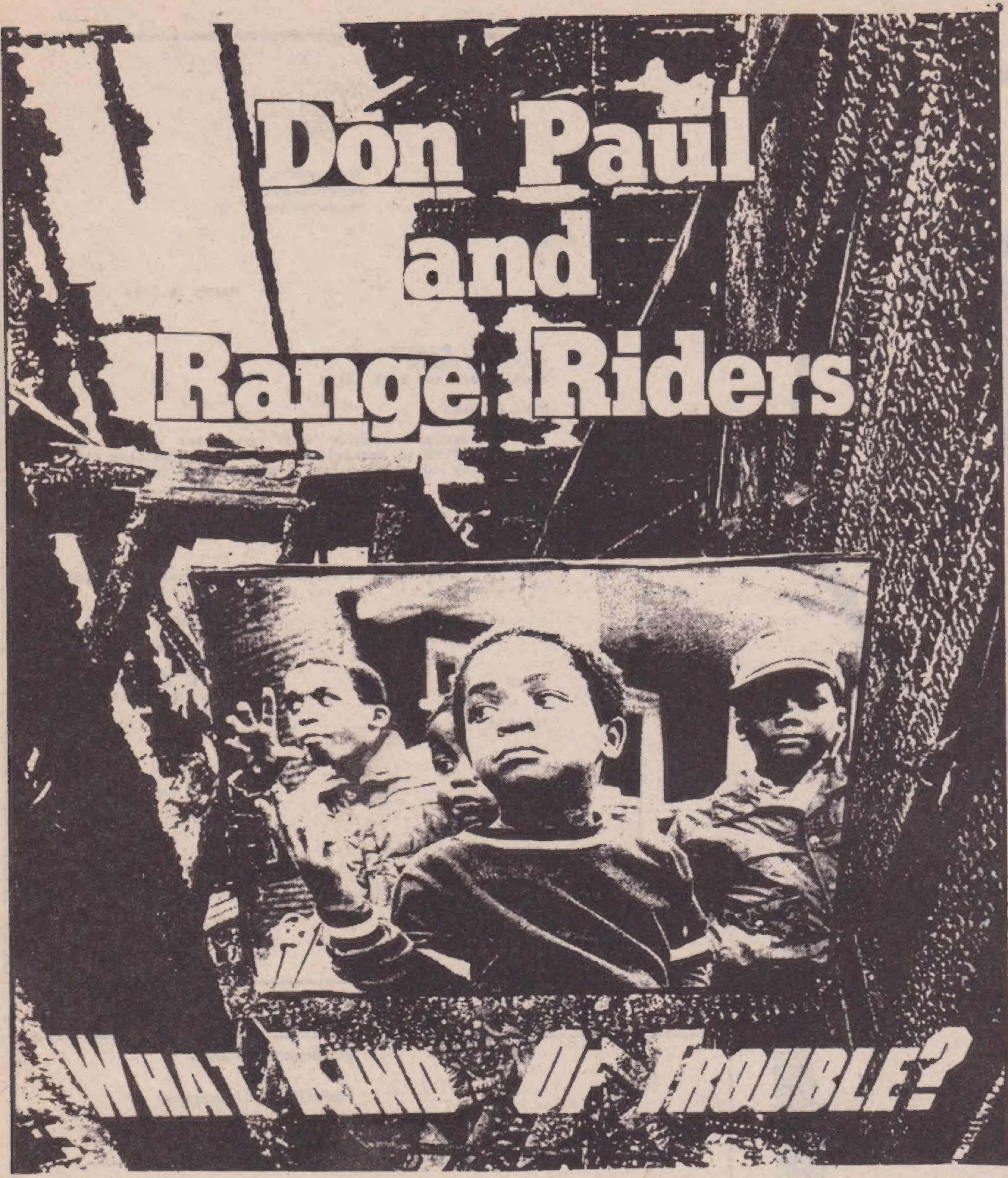
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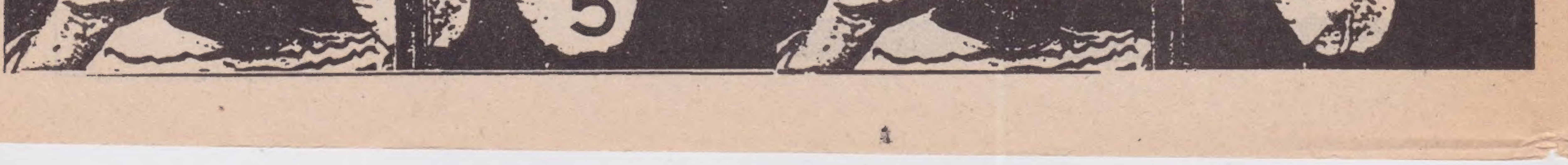
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Dolphin Moon

VISIONARY

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☐ **FLYING FISH** by John Strausbaugh. 72 pages. $7.00 ppd.

Stories that take "a precarious walk between the dream and the real" (The Sun), "blending a fierce, satiric vision with a relentless verbal fancy that few American fiction writers can boast of." (Bartleby) Includes the text of RED ZONE and a flexidisc of ANOTHER FINE MESS. "A wildly roving imagination, a taste for the incredible, and a simply extraordinary facility with words." (Kindred Spirit) "Amazingly ambitious . . . It's brilliant! It's devastating!" (MPR)

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Number 104
Editor: Paul Krassner

AND NOW MRS JONES... FOR THE DISHWASHER AND THE MATCHING OTTOMAN, CAN YOU NAME THE GROUP, SOMETIMES CALLED "THE MORAL EQUIVALENT OF OUR FOUNDING FATHERS" WHO HAS PROFITED FROM THE SMUGGLING OF PLANELOADS OF COKE INTO THE U.S.?
Hmm—

People magazine recently called Paul Krassner "father of the underground press." Naturally he demanded a blood test. But Krassner did publish The Realist from 1958 to 1974, and now he's doing it again, as a satirical newsletter. The first ten issues — still available — include:

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